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The Population of Iowa
Its Composition and Changes

A Brief Sociological Study of Iowa's Human Assets

BY WM. L. HARTER AND R. E. STEWART

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
IOWA STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND MECHANIC ARTS

C. F. Curtiss, Director

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS SECTION
and
Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, United States
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SUMMARY

In 94 years the population of Iowa grew from 10,531 to 2,469,889.

In 1856 only 18.4 percent of the people of Iowa had been born in the state, 65.1 percent were natives of other states and 16.5 percent had come from foreign lands; while in 1925, 72.1 percent were native Iowans, 19.9 percent were natives of other states and only 8 percent were foreign born.

The settlement of Iowa took place from the east and southeast toward the west and northwest in wavelike movements. These movements gave rise to significant differences in age distribution and length of residence in the different regions of the state.

The census report of 1910 brought Iowa into prominence as being the only state in the union showing a decrease in total population during the decade from 1900 to 1910.

Less than half of the people in four-fifths of the counties of the state were born in the various counties in which they resided in 1925.

While Iowa has in the past been chiefly agricultural in her economic and social interests, urbanization is gradually gaining, for today 58 percent of the people live in cities, towns and incorporated villages.

With only two exceptions cities of 5,000 population and over increased in size during the decade from 1920 to 1930, while of the 500 villages with a population under 500 three out of five lost in total population. The small village seems unable to serve adequately the population of Iowa and is on the decline.

During the past 30 years the farm population of Iowa decreased from 1,261,230 to 1,026,671 people, while the total population of places over 2,500 increased from 572,386 to 974,115.

The open country raises a much larger percentage of the state's children than either the city or the village and the latter, relative to other ages, exceeds in percentage of men and women of 55 and over.

Contrary to the general notion, people marry earlier in life now than formerly.

In 1925 Iowa had less than one person in 200 who was unable to read and write. No other state reported so small a percentage.

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PURPOSE AND METHOD OF STUDY

The purpose of this study was to collect and make easily available for use certain facts concerning the composition and character of the population of Iowa and the changes they are undergoing. The data presented were secured and adapted principally from the federal and state census reports. Beginning with 1790 the federal government has taken a census at intervals of 10 years.[1] The first territorial census of Iowa was taken in 1838. From that date until 1875 territorial, state and federal enumerations were taken at intervals ranging from one to five years.

Since 1875 the intervals have been 10 years, state enumerations being taken midway between the federal census dates. By utilizing data in both the state and federal census reports a vast amount of information is available. In some instances terminologies in the state and federal census reports do not agree in full, but so far as possible all material in the present report has been reduced to a common basis.

SOME PRE-IOWA AND EARLY IOWA HISTORICAL FACTS

In 1795 a grant of land in what is now Clayton County was made by the Spanish government to Basil Giard. This came to be

*The survey material and much of the census data for this bulletin were gathered by the late R. E. Stewart of Iowa State College as a cooperative project with the United States Department of Agriculture (Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Division of Farm Population and Rural Life). The joint author reorganized the data already assembled and added new material during the summer of 1930, bringing the study as nearly up to date as preliminary reports of the Fifteenth Federal Census would permit.

Acknowledgment is made to Dr. Geo. H. Von Tungeln of Iowa State College for many valuable suggestions in the preparation of the manuscript.

[1]Until recently little has been done to collect information concerning births and deaths of the population in the United States.

In 1920 only 82 percent of the population lived within approximately accurate mortality registration areas, while in 1919 only 58.6 percent of the population lived in birth registration areas. In 1927 the areas had increased to 91.3 and 87.3 percent, respectively. Most of the available data concerning the population are limited to census reports which for the most part have had to do with numbers and distribution.

known in territorial days as the "Giard Tract." At about the same time, another settlement was established by persons engaged primarily in trading and trapping in the region near the confluence of the Des Moines and Mississippi rivers. In 1799 a grant of land including this area was made to Louis Honore Tesson. Many of the early traders in this region chose wives from among the Indians with whom they traded, and in a friendly agreement between the Indians and these traders the triangular piece of land lying south of a line extending west from Fort Madison and bounded by the Des Moines and Mississippi rivers was set apart by the Indians for the families of these early traders. This came to be known as the "Half-Breed Tract." Later when the country was opened for settlement these two centers, one the "Giard Tract" and the other the "Half-Breed Tract," came to be important points or gateways of entry for immigrants. The accessibility of the "Half-Breed Tract," together with its apparently more attractive agricultural opportunities, resulted in a more rapid development of that area than of the "Giard Tract."

The new century soon found the territory now comprising Iowa in the hands of the United States as a result of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. For the first 30 years in the administration of the territory, the United States government was confronted with the perplexing task of defining and adjusting the relationships between the Indians and the early settlers growing out of the land grants which had been made during the Spanish regime. The early policy of the government was to prohibit migration into the new territory. Troops were accordingly stationed along the Mississippi River to patrol its banks, drive out squatters and turn back new arrivals.

The Black Hawk Purchase in 1832 opened the region for settlement, and a frantic rush of settlers followed. Trappers and traders were now replaced by settlers. The next few years witnessed a prodigious increase in population thru immigration. Some idea of the rapidity of the development of the state may be gained when it is considered that an undeveloped region of approximately 10,000 square miles—an area larger than the states of Massachusetts and Rhode Island combined—was reduced to settlements and made to return a living for some 40,000 persons within scarcely more than a decade.

THE GROWTH OF POPULATION

Upon what was practically an unoccupied prairie less than 100 years ago, 2,469,889 people live today, according to preliminary figures for the 1930 census. Only when it is realized that this increase has taken place almost within the span of a human life and under conditions representing, in the main, a consistently steady development can the full significance of this growth be

TABLE I. THE GROWTH OF POPULATION SINCE 1836.[1]

Census	Population	Increase	Census	Population	Increase
1836	(Wis. Terr.) 10,531		1885	1,753,980	129,365
1838	Ia. 22,859		1890	1,911,896	157,916
1840	Terr. 43,112	20,253	1895	2,058,069	146,173
1846	102,338	59,276	1900	2,231,853	173,784
1850	192,214	89,826	1905	2,210,050	—21,803
1856	517,875	325,661	1910	2,224,771	14,721
1860	674,913	157,038	1915	2,358,066	133,295
1865	756,209	81,296	1920	2,404,021	45,955
1870	1,194,020	437,811	1925	2,419,927	15,906
1875	1,350,553	156,533	1930[2]	2,469,889	49,962
1880	1,624,615	274,062			

[1]Adopted from Iowa and federal census reports.
[2]Preliminary report of census supervisors.

comprehended. Table I gives census figures of the population of the state at various dates and shows increases made during the intervening periods. Figure 1 is a graphic presentation of the growth of the total population since 1838—together with its rural and urban elements since 1870. It is evident, of course, that this rapid growth has been due only in part to natural increase, that is, excess of births over deaths. In common with the other newer regions of the Middle West, Iowa shared in the migrations of settlers from the older states of the Union and from foreign countries. These immigrations comprised the larger proportion of the early increases in the state's population.

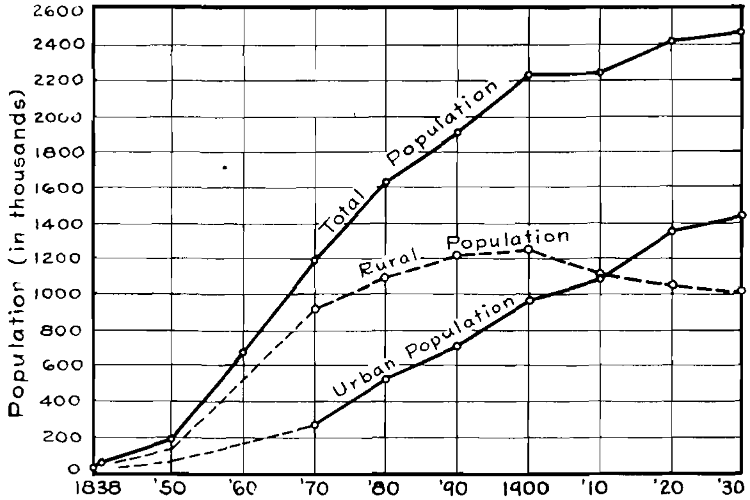


Fig. 1. Growth of total population since 1838 and its rural and urban elements by decades since 1870 in thousands.

The early movement of immigrants into what is now Iowa came as a part of that tide of western migration which swept the country during the period from 1830 to 1840. This movement was influenced largely by the rampant speculation of the early Jacksonian days. The inflated condition of the currency and the practices of "wild cat" banking which had set in greatly stimulated the prices of the farm products of this period. Rapidly increasing land values made speculation in the West very profitable, and total sales of public land jumped from the unusually high figure of approximately 4 million acres in 1833 to more than 20 million acres in 1836. The number of inhabitants in Iowa grew from 22,859 in 1838 to 43,112 in 1840.

The economic and industrial changes thru which the country was passing during the early years of the state's history were important factors in its development. The rise of factory towns in the older states and the introduction of foreign trade during the period created new markets for agricultural products. The temporary and special preemption acts of Congress, passed in the early '30's and the general and permanent act in 1841 made available for settlement vast tracts of fertile land in the new territory. These conditions contributed to an unusual expansion in agriculture and to a phenomenal development of the country. As a result, there was during this period an influx of immigrants into the state from other sections of this country such as had never before been witnessed.

The unsettled condition in Europe during the second quarter of the nineteenth century caused by the Irish famine, the spirit of agrarian unrest, the political and economic disturbances and readjustments, together with the news in Europe of dazzling opportunities in America, greatly stimulated foreign immigration. In this movement Iowa received her generous share of migrants. In 1865 there were approximately as many foreign born people in Iowa as native born Iowans and nearly one-fourth as many foreign born as American born immigrants. By 1840 there were settlements in 18 of the counties in the eastern part of the state. Three of these—Van Buren, Lee and Des Moines—had acquired a population density of 10 or more persons per square mile, while four others had an average density of from 5 to 10 persons per square mile. Figure 2 shows the distribution and density of the population in 1840, 1850 and 1860.

CONDITIONS IN 1850

During the years from 1840 to 1850 the total population of the state grew from 43,112 to 192,214 inhabitants, a gain of 149,102 persons. By 1850 settlers had pushed into the regions which now comprise 48 of the 99 counties of the state. In 24 of the more sparsely settled of these counties, however, the population did not

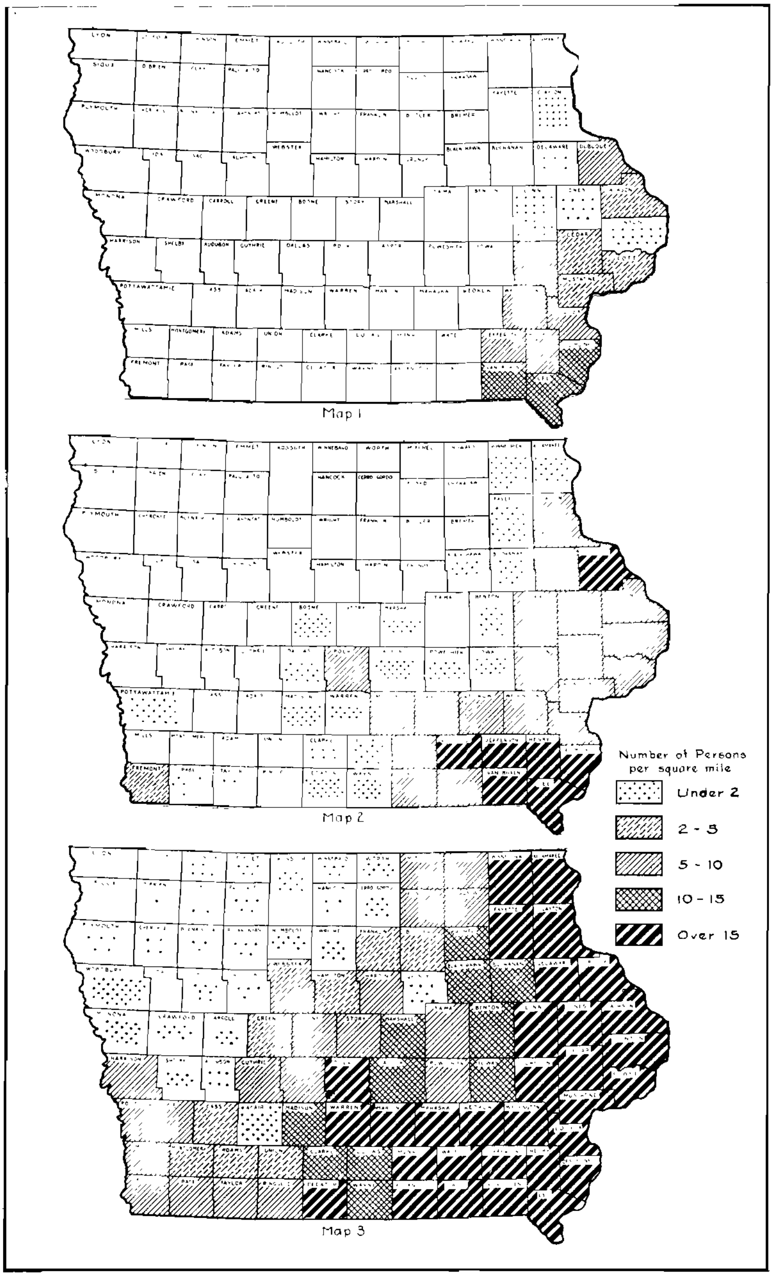


Fig. 2: Map 1. Density of population in 1840. Map 2. Density of population in 1850. May 3. Density of population in 1860.

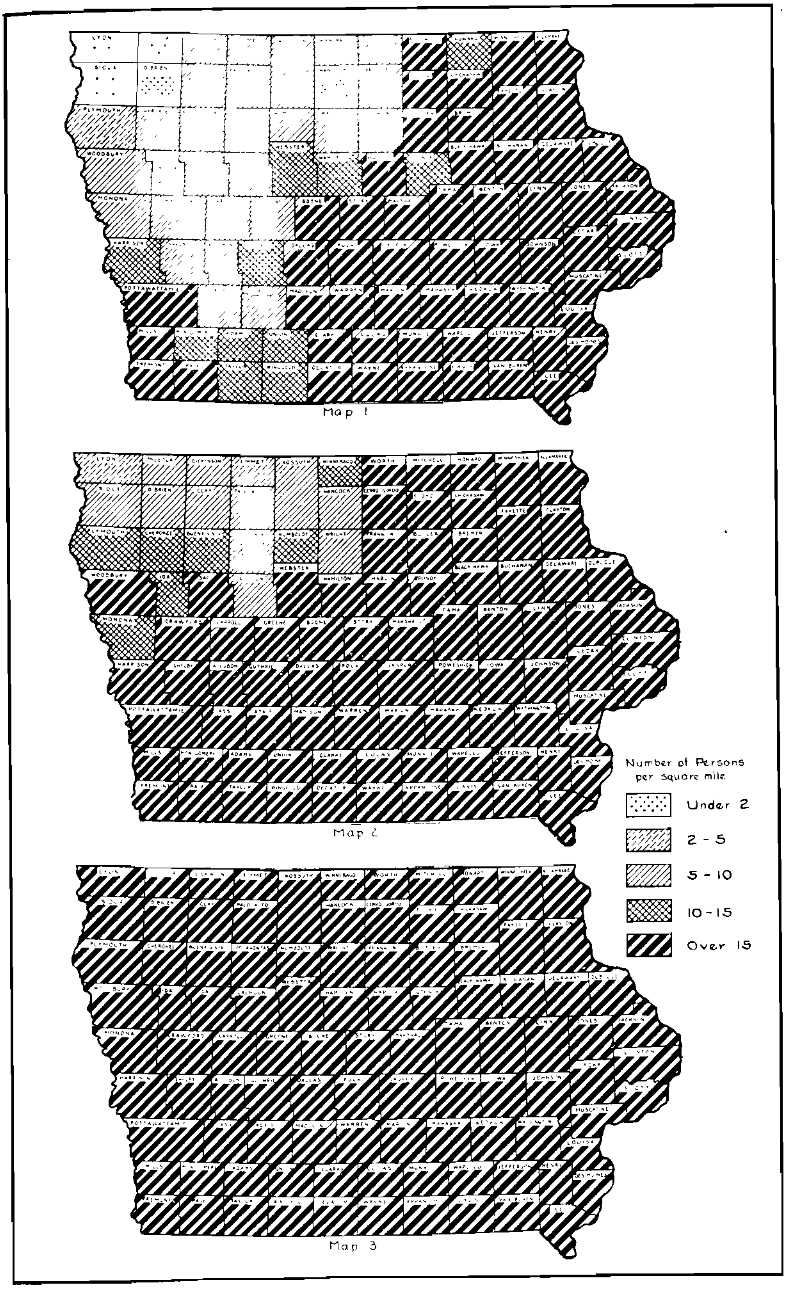


Fig. 3. Map 1. Density of population in 1870. Map 2. Density of population in 1880. Map 3. Density of population in 1890.

exceed a density of five persons per square mile. In the remaining 24 counties the average density was 13 persons per square mile, with 7 of the number averaging a density of 25. Reference to map 2, Fig. 2 will make clear the population distribution in 1850.

EFFECT OF MEANS OF TRAVEL ON SETTLEMENT

The means of transportation available to the early settlers of Iowa had much to do with the geographical settlement of the state. Two methods only were available, one overland by wagon and the other by boat on the larger rivers. There were two general routes of entry into the state—one route leading from the Atlantic coast states by way of "The National Road" across the Alleghancy Mountains to the headwaters of the Ohio, down that stream into the Mississippi Valley and then up the Mississippi into Iowa at the extreme southeast corner of the state. The other route was by way of the Erie Canal, which was finished in 1825, and the Great Lakes. One route, which was a wagon trail from the Great Lakes across Illinois, entered Iowa in the region of Dubuque while another, by boat on the Rock River, or following the old Indian trail along its general course, entered Iowa at the confluence of the Rock and Mississippi rivers, just below what is now Davenport, where early pioneers had established a ferry.

Maps 3 in Fig. 2 and 1 and 2 in Fig. 3 show clearly the influence of watercourses on the early development of the state. The reader should compare these with fig. 4 which shows the principal rivers and cities of the state and also the railroad development that had taken place by 1870. It will be seen that the Des Moines River flows thru Webster, Boone, Polk, Marion, Mahaska, Wapello and Van Buren counties, and it is in these counties that the heavier shadings on the maps indicate the earlier settlements. The early settlement in the counties along the Missouri River in the extreme southwest corner of the state was certainly due to the transportation afforded by the river. Note that the counties in the extreme southeast corner of the state and Dubuque county were the first to reach a density of 15 persons per square mile.

The watercourses and means of travel not only influenced the regional development of the state, but they also exerted considerable selective influence in determining the regions from which early settlers were drawn. From those regions accessible to and lying along the previously described routes, larger numbers have come than from other regions more remote and less accessible.

Iowa One-Third Settled by 1860

By the outbreak of the Civil War the total population of the state numbered 674,913. This was a gain of 482,699 persons in

a 10-year period. At this time 31 counties, lying along the eastern and southeastern borders of the state, comprising practically one-third its area, had reached the state of full agricultural settlement—15 or more persons per square mile. Practically all lands had been taken up by settlers, and other landseekers, either natives or immigrants, were forced to move westward into newer regions where unoccupied lands could be found. The population density of these 31 counties ranged from 16 to 58 persons per square mile, averaging 29. This density indicates a considerable tendency toward a growth in villages and larger towns. Five of these counties had attained an average density of 52 persons per square mile, while 11 others adjoining them had an average density of 13. It is interesting to note here the abrupt ending of this westward wavelike movement of people. Often pioneer conditions with great stretches of unoccupied land were found adjoining counties in which practically all lands had been settled and laid out in farms, while in the extreme northwestern corner of the

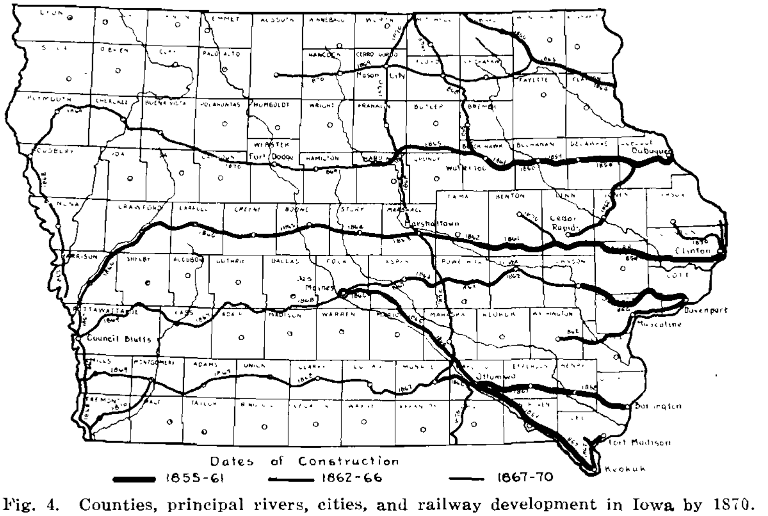


Fig. 4. Counties, principal rivers, cities, and railway development in Iowa by 1870.

state three counties were reported without settlement. In map 3, fig. 2 note the delay in the development of Grundy, Tama and Poweshiek counties.

Attention is again called to the influence of watercourses upon the spread of population. Note the settlement of those counties in the southwestern section of the state. Missouri as a state had passed thru all the phases of land settlement a quarter of a century earlier than Iowa, and by 1860 those regions adjacent to the Missouri River from its confluence with the Mississippi to

the lower borders of Iowa were rapidly passing into the fully settled stage. Pioneers in search of new lands were thus forced to ascend the Missouri River and to enter the borders of Iowa where such lands were still available.

A study of the nativity of these groups shows that they have come very largely from the same sources as those in the southeastern section of the state. For the most part early Iowa immigrants of American origin used the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri rivers as water routes and entered the southern section of the state; whereas a large percentage of the foreign immigration to reach Iowa came from the eastern seaboard along the Erie Canal and Great Lakes route and settled in the northeastern counties.

Expansion by 1870

By 1870 Iowa's population had grown to 1,194,020, a gain of considerably more than a half million persons during the decade in which the Civil War was fought. In no decade either before or since have such rapid gains been made. The vastness of these increases can better be appreciated when it is remembred that during the years 1860 to 1865, in which the Civil War was fought, only slightly more than 81,000 people were added to the population of the state, whereas from 1865 to 1870 the increase amounted to nearly a half million people. Several factors and conditions contributed to this enormous increase during the latter half of the decade. Early in the 60's President Lincoln signed the Homestead Act which added to the ease of getting land. The Civil War, which arrested the growth of the state, had been brought to a successful close, and discharged soldiers, finding their former civilian occupations largely filled by others while they were in the army, now eagerly turned to new lands which could be had for the asking. European immigration, which had declined to very low figures during the war, resumed almost the proportions formerly reached in 1854. Again, the very marked swing toward industrialization and urbanization, which was beginning to express itself particularly in the East, greatly stimulated the demand for agricultural products. In addition to the domestic demand, European exports had been steadily growing. It was at this time also that the rapid development of farm machinery added to the demand for larger farms. Among the most important factors contributing to this enormous expansion was the rapid extension of railroad service. By 1860 only a relatively small part of the eastern section of the state had any railroad service; whereas by 1870 three main lines had been extended entirely across the state from east to west and two others were in operation almost to the center of the state.

A Rapidly Vanishing Frontier in 1880

It is needless to make extended comment regarding the further settlement of the state for the conditions which have just been described continued until the new lands had all been occupied. The 10-year period from 1870 to 1880 added 430,595 people to the state. This was a part of that period of unprecedented growth of the population of the state which extended from 1865 to 1900. In 35 years Iowa's population grew from 756,209 people to 2,231,853, a total gain of 1,475,644—almost 300 percent. It should not be forgotten that similar developments were taking place, altho to a somewhat lesser extent, in adjoining states.

Free Lands Gone by 1890

According to the federal census the population of Iowa had by 1890 reached 1,911,896. This was a gain of 287,281 inhabitants for the decade just closed. Map 3 in fig. 3 reveals that by this time every county in the state had attained a density of 15 or more persons per square mile. Practically the entire state had been laid out in farms and future home seekers were compelled to extend their searches into other sections beyond Iowa's boundary line.

Figure 5 portrays not only the regional but also the chronological development of the state from its earliest settlements in the southeastern corner, until it had reached a density of 15 persons per square mile, a density sufficient to convert practically all lands into farms. Altho the growth from 1890 to

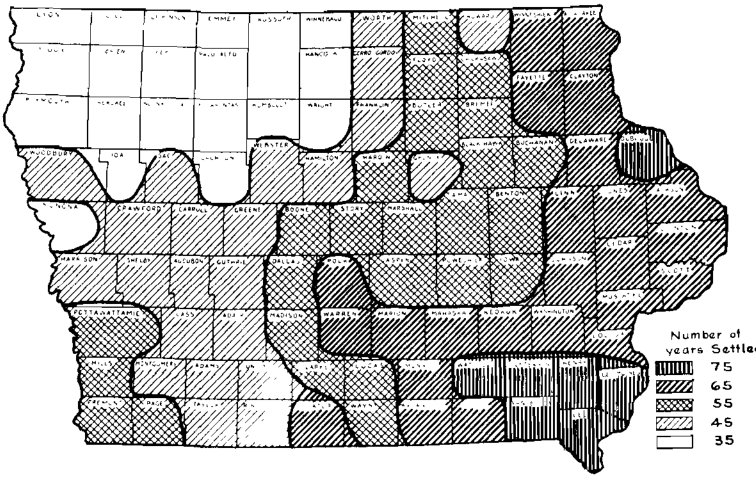


Fig. 5. Chronological and regional development of Iowa from 1840 to 1890.

1900 was very large, amounting to almost 320,000 persons, the major part of the increase should be attributed not so much to increased farm population as to growth in villages and towns.

Since 1900

Table 1 and fig. 1 reveal interesting trends in Iowa's population numbers. For the five-year period following 1900, there was a significant decrease in population amounting to 21,803. Factors responsible for this decrease will be explained later when the rural-urban distribution of the population is discussed. Altho the latter half of the decade showed considerable gains, these were insufficient to retrieve the losses sustained during the five years previous, hence the net loss for the decade was 7,082 people. From 1910 to 1920 the curve again turns upward with a gain of 179,250, making a total of 2,404,-021. Preliminary figures for the 1930 census report Iowa's population to be 2,469,889, a gain during the decade of 65,868.

SIGNIFICANCE OF VARYING DENSITIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE

A word may be said at this time concerning the effect upon the character of the population of varying degrees of density within the different regions of the state. An average density of 15 or more persons per square mile may roughly imply at least four families per section of land, one family per 160 acres, a condition approximately the average for the farm population of the state today. In areas where the density of population to any great extent exceeds 15 per square mile this condition may be interpreted as indicating either that the farms are smaller than 160 acres each or that towns and cities account for the excess population, or perhaps both. As the earlier settled regions attained a density greatly exceeding 15 persons per square mile, considerable numbers of people from older regions were constantly migrating into other newer and less densely settled areas. This constant readjustment of population from higher to lower density areas had a pronounced selective influence upon the groups concerned. Figures 2, 3 and 5 show graphically much of the history of the settlement of the state. They show the location of areas of similar density at succeeding intervals and thus reveal the spread of population thruout the state.

One very significant aspect of the spread of population within the state is that by 1850, 24 of the southeastern counties, having attained an average population density of 13 persons per square mile, had reached a stage of agricultural development somewhat beyond that of the pioneer. Some of the more

densely populated counties were by this time passing into the more advanced stages of agricultural development. This is important from the standpoint of the development of community life. Here a region comprising approximately one-fourth of the area of the state was passing from the earlier into the more matured stages of rural life, and in some instances even into the fully developed stages, before other regions of the state had even begun settlement. This means, of course, that the historical development of the state has been regional rather than general. It means that successive stages of community development have been relayed from region to region by the movement of population groups, and that the problems of rural life for the entire state at any given time have varied in significance depending in each case upon the stage of local development. Many present day social and political problems owe their origin to the fact that the regional growth of the state has brought to each section conditions and needs peculiar to its stage of development. For instance one of the accompanying phases of this sectional development has been the general segregation of the population on an age basis. Successive migrations have as a rule left the older inhabitants in the earlier settled regions, and since age distribution is a vital factor in determining the character and extent of the organizations and institutions needed for any population group, political and social issues involving this phase of community welfare have to some extent met with responses based on regional interests.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL POPULATION

In any area which is developing surplus numbers as a result of natural increase, that is, excess of births over deaths, it is usually the younger, unattached elements represented by young men and women seeking social and economic opportunities, rather than their parents, who migrate to newer regions. Table II shows clearly the effect upon the age distribution of the population resulting from this regional development.

TABLE II. AGE DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL POPULATION BY REGIONS SETTLED AT SUCCESSIVE PERIODS
(Compiled from 1925 census)

Years settled	Age distribution in percentage						Regional totals, bases for percentages
	Under 5	5 to 9	10 to 17	18 to 20	21 to 44	45-over	
75	9.1	9.2	14.5	5.2	34.6	27.3	226,197
65	9.4	9.4	14.4	5.2	35.8	25.8	783,883
55	10.1	10.0	15.2	5.1	34.1	25.5	579,902
45	10.4	10.6	15.2	5.2	35.5	23.1	498,844
35	11.4	11.4	16.0	5.4	34.1	21.7	331,101
State	10.1	10.1	15.1	5.2	34.8	24.7	2,419,927

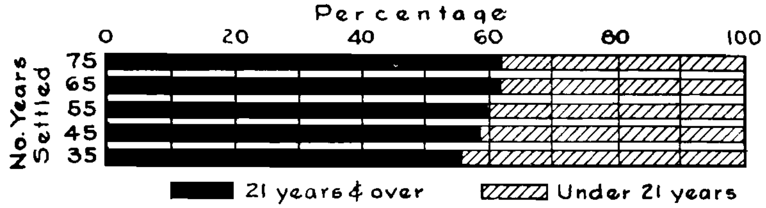


Fig. 6. Percentage of total population 21 years old and over; and percentage under 21 years old in regions settled at different periods.

Figure 6 bears unmistakable evidence of this tendency of the younger people to migrate. This figure shows the percentage of the population 21 years of age or over and the percentage under 21 years of age living in regions settled at different periods. Note that in the region which has been settled 75 years, more than 61 percent of the people are 21 years old or over, while in the region settled 35 years approximately 56 percent are of that age.

It will be observed that in the older regions a considerably larger percentage of men is within the older age group, 45 years and over, than in the more recently settled regions. The percentage ranges from 27.28 in the older regions to 21.73 percent in the newer ones.

On the other hand, the more recently settled regions have the higher percentages of younger people, especially of children. It is interesting to note that in the region near the central part of the state which was settled midway in point of time beween the oldest and the newest regions the age distribution conforms fairly closely to the average for the state.

AGE DISTRIBUTION WITHIN THE RURAL ELEMENT

While that which has just been said had reference to the population as a whole, table III portrays the age distribution within the rural element only. No sharp contrasts are revealed in these two tables.

In the oldest region of the state, settled 75 years age, approximately 24 percent of the farm population was found to be 45 years old or older, while in the newest settled region only 15.2 percent of the farm population was in that age class. Fig. 7 shows the percentage of the rural population 21 years of age or over and that under 21 years of age within the five regions settled for different numbers of years. This figure clearly indicates the fact that the older regions have larger percentages of the older age groups and fewer people of the younger ages than are found in the more recently settled regions. Data for the above discussed tables were assembled from the 1925 census report. Table IV presents data secured from 2,170 farm

TABLE III. AGE DISTRIBUTION OF FARM POPULATION IN REGIONS SETTLED AT SUCCESSIVE PERIODS.

Years settled	Age distribution in percentage						Regional totals, bases for percentages
	Under 5	5 to 9	10 to 17	18 to 20	21 to 44	45-over	
75	10.9	11.2	17.2	5.2	31.6	23.9	71,145
65	11.4	11.5	16.9	5.4	33.5	21.3	281,542
55	12.0	11.9	17.3	5.3	34.0	19.5	259,244
45	12.4	12.5	17.4	5.4	34.7	17.6	219,656
35	13.6	13.1	17.6	5.6	34.9	15.2	186,688
State	12.1	12.1	17.3	5.4	34.0	19.1	1,018,265

operators showing the age distribution for this adult group only. These data were secured in 1925-1926 by the survey method, supplemented by mailed questionnaires. They include 1,167 field schedules secured from farmers in five selected communities in Iowa, one in each of the five regions discussed above, and 1,003 replies in response to mailed questionnaires sent to all parts of the state. For the purpose of analysis the state was divided into five areas, one near each corner of the state and one near the center. A community was selected within each area for the surveys. Since these data include adults only, a somewhat different age grouping was used. It is evident from this table that the different sections or regions of the state show rather sharp contrasts in the percentages of farmers within the various age groups. Note that for all sections of the state slightly more than 41 percent of the farm operators are 50 years of age or over and that approximately 5 percent are past 70. Some marked contrasts are revealed when all the farmers over 60 years of age are placed in one group. When this is done it will be seen that only 11.1 percent of the operators in the northwestern section of the state are 60 or more years old, while in the southeastern section 27.8 percent are in that age group. Similarly it will be found that 36.3 per-

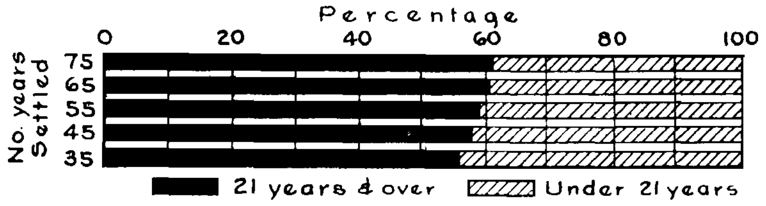


Fig. 7. Percentage of farm population 21 years old and over and under 21 years old in regions settled in different periods.

TABLE IV. AGE DISTRIBUTION OF 2,170 FARM OPERATORS.[1]

Sections of state	Age distribution—percent						Sectional totals
	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-	
Southeast	4.3	19.0	24.8	24.1	18.6	9.2	415
Northeast	8.4	27.7	24.4	25.3	11.0	3.2	509
Center	9.4	29.2	24.6	23.0	10.4	3.4	414
Southwest	5.4	21.6	26.9	27.4	12.4	6.3	425
Northwest	8.9	27.4	31.9	20.7	8.9	2.2	405
All sections	7.3	25.1	26.4	24.2	12.2	4.8	2,170

[1]Original survey data.

cent of the farm operators in the northwest part of the state were under 40 years of age, while in the southeastern section there were but 23.3 percent in this age group. The significant point brought out in the table is that in the older regions a much larger proportion of older farmers is found than in the newer regions. From these facts some very significant inferences may be drawn as to the response various issues and programs designed for the betterment of community life will meet. Figure 8 shows the percentage of farm operators under 40 years of age and those 60 or more years old residing in the regions settled at different periods as found in our survey.

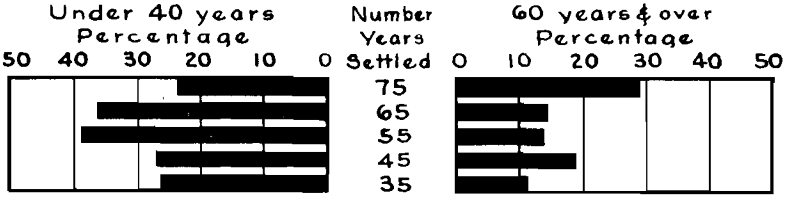


Fig. 8. Percentage of farm operators under 40 and those 60 or more years old in regions settled in different periods.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LENGTH OF RESIDENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

The older settled regions of the state not only have a higher percentage of the population within the older age classes but also a considerably larger proportion of people who have resided in the community for many years.

Table V shows the percentage of the farm operators in the regions of the state settled at successive periods who have lived in their respective communities for given numbers of years. It will be observed that in the southeastern section, which was settled 75 years ago, 56.4 percent of the farm operators have resided in their respective communities more than 40 years, while in the northwestern section, which was more recently

TABLE V. LENGTH OF RESIDENCE OF FARM OPERATORS IN THE COMMUNITY[1]

Sections of state	Tenure distribution in percent						Sectional totals
	1-10yrs.	11-20yrs.	21-30yrs.	31-40yrs.	41-50yrs.	51yrs.	
Southeast	6.3	4.1	9.2	24.0	26.5	29.9	509
Northeast	15.1	12.9	16.8	28.0	16.6	10.6	414
Center	16.3	14.1	17.7	23.0	15.6	13.3	425
Southwest	12.4	10.6	14.3	26.3	24.0	12.4	412
Northwest	21.5	19.5	22.5	21.7	10.0	4.8	410
All sections	14.2	12.3	16.2	24.7	18.6	14.0	2,170

[1]Original survey data.

settled, less than 15 percent have lived there that length of time. Figure 9 shows the percentage of farm operators in the various regions who had resided there 10 years or less contrasted to those who had resided in those regions more than 50 years. It will be seen that approximately 30 percent of the farm operators in the older region had resided in their respective communities more than 50 years, while only slightly more than 6 percent had lived there 10 years or less. On the other hand, 21.5 percent of the farm operators in the northwest section of the state had moved into their respective communities within the past 10 years, and less than 5 percent had lived there more than 50 years.

DISTRIBUTION AND MOVEMENT OF POPULATION

NATIVITY OF IOWA POPULATION

Not only is one interested in the settlement of the state geographically (regionally) and chronologically, but also in the sources from which this population came. "Until about 1850 English speaking but native born Americans overwhelmingly predominated in the flow of immigration to the settled portions of Iowa. Hailing from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, the Carolinas and the New England states, they were the descendants of the racial stocks that had originally peopled the Atlantic seaboard areas. Altho for the most part of English decent many of them were of a different extraction—such as Scotch, Irish,

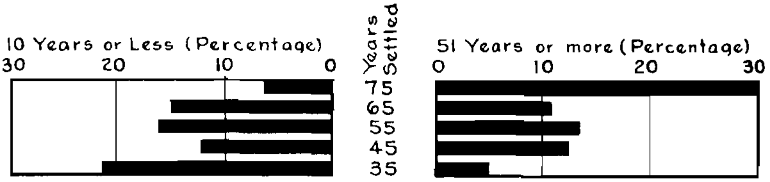


Fig. 9. Percentage of farm operators having resided in their communities 10 years or less compared with those having resided there 51 years or more by regions settled at different periods.

TABLE VI. NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES OF IOWA POPULATION FOREIGN BORN, BORN IN OTHER STATES AND BORN IN IOWA, REPORTED AT GIVEN CENSUS DATES 1856 TO 1925.

	1856	Percent	1875	Percent	1885	Percent	1895	Percent	1900	Percent
Foreign born	85,449	16.5	202,583	15.0	310,405	17.2	330,548	15.9	305,920	13.8
Born in other states	337,138	65.1	592,893	43.9	615,517	35.2	593,451	28.6	600,353	27.0
Born in Iowa	95,288	18.4	555,077	41.1	828,058	47.6	1,134,070	55.5	1,318,377	59.1
Total	517,875		1,350,553		1,753,980		2,058,069		2,231,853	

	1905	Percent	1910	Percent	1915	Percent	1920	Percent	1925	Percent
Foreign born	282,296	12.7	273,765	12.4	264,169	11.2	225,994	9.5	194,176	8.0
Born in other states	547,847	24.8	524,774	23.7	542,502	23.0	543,565	22.7	481,547	19.9
Born in Iowa	1,380,148	62.5	1,416,584	63.9	1,551,395	65.8	1,624,606	67.8	1,744,204	72.1
Total	2,210,291		2,224,771		2,358,066		2,404,021		2,419,927	

Adapted from federal and state census reports.

Dutch, German, Moravian, Swedish and French—the offshoots of all the strains represented in the population of the older states."[1] The records available to the authors do not give nativity statistics for dates earlier than 1856. Of the total population of 517,875 in 1856, 337,638 had been born in other American states, 85,449 in foreign lands and 95,288 were native to the state. Table VI gives the nativity composition of the population for various census dates beginning with 1856. It will be observed that in the early years of the state's history the *major portion of the population had come into Iowa from other* states in the Union. As late as 1856 native and foreign born people in Iowa were almost equal in numbers. A casual look at fig. 10 reveals the marked changes which have taken place in these proportions from that date. The proportions comprising these elements are better shown in fig. 11, which gives the nativity of Iowa residents at various dates by percentage of the total population. In 1856 more than 65 percent of the residents of Iowa were from other states, while 16.5 percent had come from foreign countries, and 18.4 percent had been born in Iowa. It was nearly 1890 before the native born element comprised one-half the population of the state. It is to be expected that as the country grows old the native element in its population should increase in percentage until population numbers have become stabilized. When that time has come there will be the normal movements in and out of the state, but these

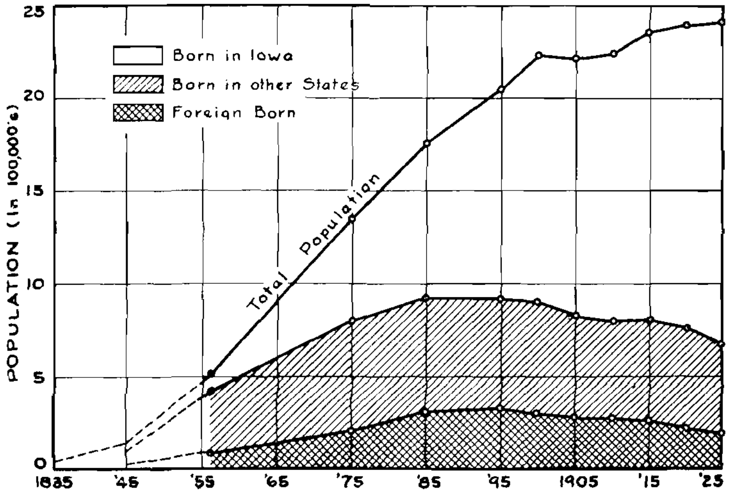


Fig. 10. Nativity elements composing the population of Iowa at given census dates from 1856 to 1925 in thousands.

[1]Van der Zee, "The British in Iowa." 1922

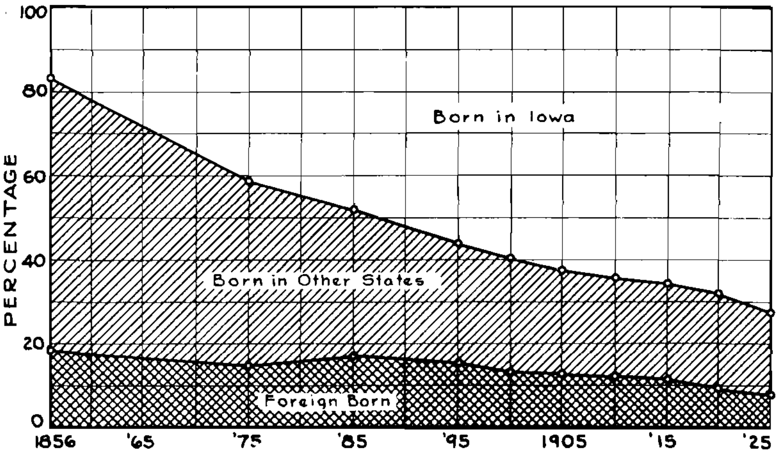


Fig 11. Nativity elements composing the population of Iowa at given census dates from 1856 to 1925, in percentage.

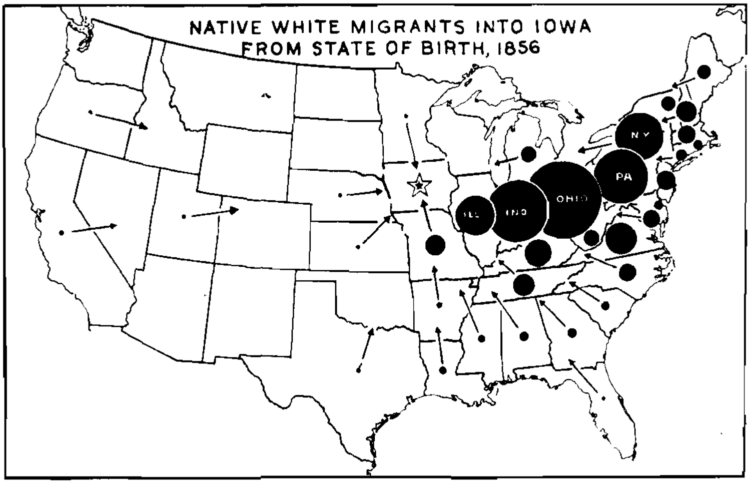
will in no large degree change the composition of the population. The trends just pointed out have considerable sociological significance. In the past much of the culture resident in the state was brought from many states and many lands.

SOURCES AND DISTRIBUTION OF AMERICAN BORN MIGRANTS INTO IOWA

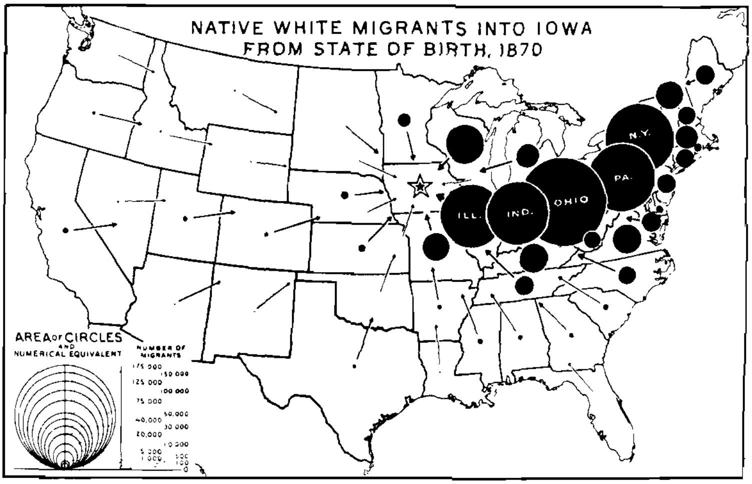
Attention has just been called to the fact that in the settlement of Iowa many migrants came from other states. Figures 12 and 13 portray the sources and extent of these migrants residing in the state in 1856, 1870, 1890 and 1920. In the earlier years of settlement Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, New York, Illinois, Virginia and Kentucky, in the order named, were the heaviest contributors of Iowa's new settlers. In later years, however, some noticeable changes have taken place. Note particularly that in 1920 as compared to 1870, relatively few people were living in Iowa who had been born in Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, New York and other eastern states, while the number from Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Minnesota, Kansas and South Dakota had greatly increased.

Lack of space precludes more than the briefest discussion of the location of American born settlers in Iowa, hence a few passing comments must suffice. In 1856 more than 90,000 people were living in Iowa who had come from Ohio. They settled principally in the southeastern two-fifths of the state, with heaviest concentrations in Lee County where more than 4,000 had located. Some 17 adjoining counties had from 3,000 to 4,000 each, while others nearby ranged from 1,500 to 3,000 per

county. In 1895 nearly 94,000 Ohioans were living in Iowa, but they had scattered to the more distant counties, many of them apparently having moved from their first place of settlement. None of the southeastern counties had as many Ohio settlers in 1895 as they had in 1856. Lee County had less than 2,000 from Ohio in 1895, whereas there were more than 4,000 at the former date. Polk County with over 3,000 was now the county with the most native Ohioans.

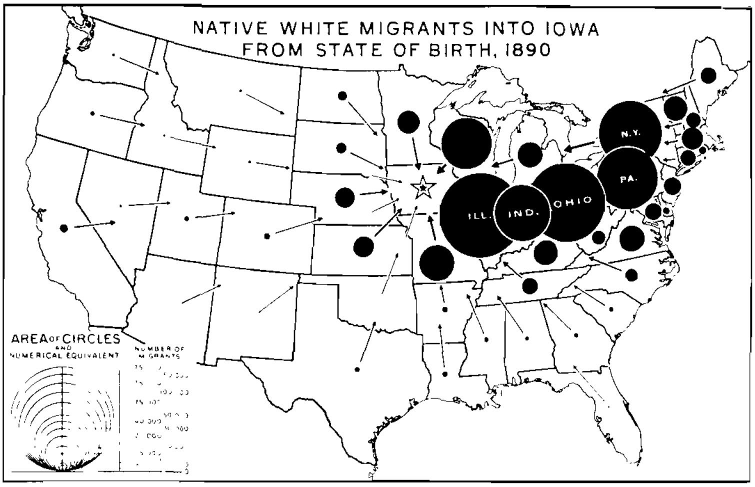


Map 1

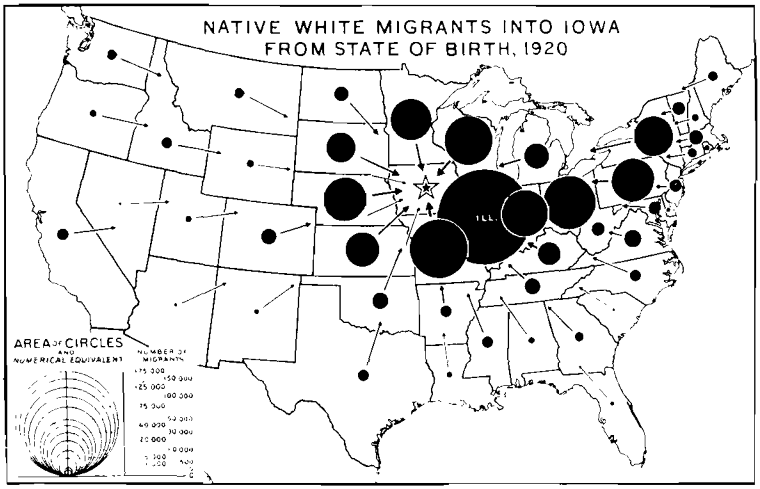


Map 2

Fig. 12: map 1. Native white migrants into Iowa from state of birth, 1856. Map 2. Native white migrants into Iowa from state of birth, 1870.



Map 1



Map 2

Fig. 13: map 1. Native white migrants into Iowa from state of birth, 1890. Map 2. Native white migrants into Iowa from state of birth, 1920.

Indiana had contributed something more than 53,000 to Iowa's population in 1856, while in 1895 there were 49,296 living in the state. At the earlier date Indiana migrants had settled mostly in Marion and adjoining counties with over 2,500 in the former. Between 2,000 and 2,500 were in each of sev-

eral counties adjoining. By 1895 these or other Indiana settlers had spread out into the counties farther west, particularly into the Missouri River counties as far north as Woodbury. No one county in the state had as many as 1,500 people from Indiana except Polk where there were between 3,000 and 3,500.

In 1856 living in the counties along the Mississippi River were 45,659 natives of Pennsylvania, more than 2,500 of whom were located in Scott County. By 1895, 57,451 people in Iowa were natives of Pennsylvania, but they were scattered thruout the lower three-fourths of the state with fewer in the Mississippi River counties than were there in 1856.

In 1856 New York had contributed 35,419 people to the population of Iowa, most of whom had located in the river counties with largest numbers in Dubuque, Clinton and Scott counties, each of which had between 2,000 and 2,500. By 1895 there were nearly 60,000 New Yorkers in Iowa, but they had spread out to the Missouri River into practically all parts of the state except the lower three tiers of counties where there were relatively few. Like the other migrants into the state they seem to have moved farther west largely vacating the Mississippi River counties.

Illinois had sent only 23,123 settlers to Iowa by 1856, while in 1895, 127,956 were from that state. Like other early settlers, migrants from Illinois located in the eastern counties, but by 1895 they had spread into every county. Polk County alone had nearly 4,000 while Pottawattamie had over 3,000 and Plymouth and Lee more than 2,500 each. There were heavy settlements just west of the central part of the state. Only eight or nine counties in the state had as few as 500 from Illinois. No other state has contributed nearly so many to Iowa's population as Illinois.

Virginians, some 17,500 in number, settled in the southeastern corner of the state in a block of 12 counties. Each county had from 500 to 1,000 Virginians as residents. By 1895 there were less than 10,000 Virginians in the entire state, no county having more than 300 or 400.

By 1895 Wisconsin had sent 44,307 settlers into Iowa where they located mainly in the northern two-fifths of the state. No county had as many as 2,000 except Dubuque, which had between 2,000 and 2,500. There were somewhat more than 1,500 in Cerro Gordo and Woodbury counties each, and between 1,000 and 1,500 in each of Mitchell, Floyd, Fayette and Plymouth counties.

FOREIGN BORN IMMIGRANTS LIVING IN IOWA

The extent of the foreign born element residing in Iowa at different census enumerations since 1856 is shown in figs. 10

TABLE VII. FOREIGN BORN POPULATION LIVING IN IOWA AT VARIOUS CENSUS DATES FROM 1856 TO 1925 BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH.

	1925	1915	1905	1895	1885	1856
Germany	61,518	88,450	110,187	132,347	120,396	29,706
Sweden	18,911	25,683	28,396	31,085	25,396	1,116
Denmark	15,455	18,955	17,290	17,043	12,250	—
Norway	14,217	20,239	23,953	27,428	24,107	2,782
Netherlands	12,094	12,638	9,677	9,126	5,461	589
England	10,988	15,741	18,263	23,411	25,974	8,941
Austria	10,803	7,655	4,040	11,128	—	1,426
Canada	8,411	10,980	14,306	17,882	19.087	6,133
Russia	8,197	9,896	3,825	2,100	—	96
Ireland	7,786	14,299	22,578	33,006	42,524	20,896
Italy	4,513	6,261	1,645	710	—	7
Scotland	3,450	4,947	5,693	7,037	7,993	2,170
Mexico	2,597	616	21	30	—	1
Switzerland	2,403	3,160	3,845	2,694	—	1,108
Greece	1,868	4,678	—	—	—	3
France	1,564	1,883	1,719	2,329	2,486	1,807
Luxemburg	1,187	—	—	—	—	—
Belgium	1,132	—	—	727	—	1,511
Wales	958	2,048	2,621	3,439	3,436	595
Hungary	483	1,300	551	—	—	—
Bohemia	—	9,500	9,098	—	10,423	—
Unknown	—	269	2,833	3,552	—	4,565
All others[1]	5,640	4,971	1,801	5,354	10,871	447

Countries from each of which less than 1,000 had come are grouped together as "All others.

and 11. Table VII gives the number of foreign born living in the state at various dates and the countries from which they had come.

Figure 14 shows the relative numbers of migrants from the countries named and also the changes which took place in the number of residents having come from these countries between 1895 and 1925. Note that the German-born still predominated in 1925, and that Ireland has taken a lower ranking than formerly as to numbers contributed to Iowa's population. It will be observed that from most of the countries there has been a decided decrease in the number coming. Some relatively unimportant exceptions are the Netherlands, Austria, Russia Italy, Mexico and others of still lesser importance.

DISTRIBUTION OF FOREIGN BORN IN 1856

Space does not permit a graphic presentation of the distribution of the foreign born population by nationalities, hence only a brief discussion of this point will be attempted. In 1856 there were 29,706 German born settlers living in the state Scott and Dubuque counties each had more than 4,000. More than 3,000 were in Lee, over 2,500 in Des Moines County and some 2,000 in Clayton. Jackson, Johnson and Muscatine counties each had between 1,000 and 1,500. The 20,896 Irish were located along the Mississippi, concentrating in Dubuque where there were over 4,000 and Scott with more than 2,000. Clinton, Des Moines and Lee Counties each had between 1,000 and 1,500.

At this time there were only 8,941 English born residents in Iowa. Only one county, Dubuque, had as many as 1,000. Clinton and Scott each had between 500 and 1,000.

In 1856 only 3,898 settlers in Iowa had come from Norway and Sweden combined. They were located primarily in the extreme northeastern counties of the state. On that census date no Danes were reported in the state.

DISTRIBUTION OF FOREIGN BORN, 1895

Table VII discloses that by 1895 some marked changes had taken place in the number of foreign born residents in the state. Now more than 132,000 native born Germans were living in Iowa, whereas in 1856 there were less than 30,000. There were by 1895, 33,000 Irish, 31,085 Swedes, 27,428 Norwegians,

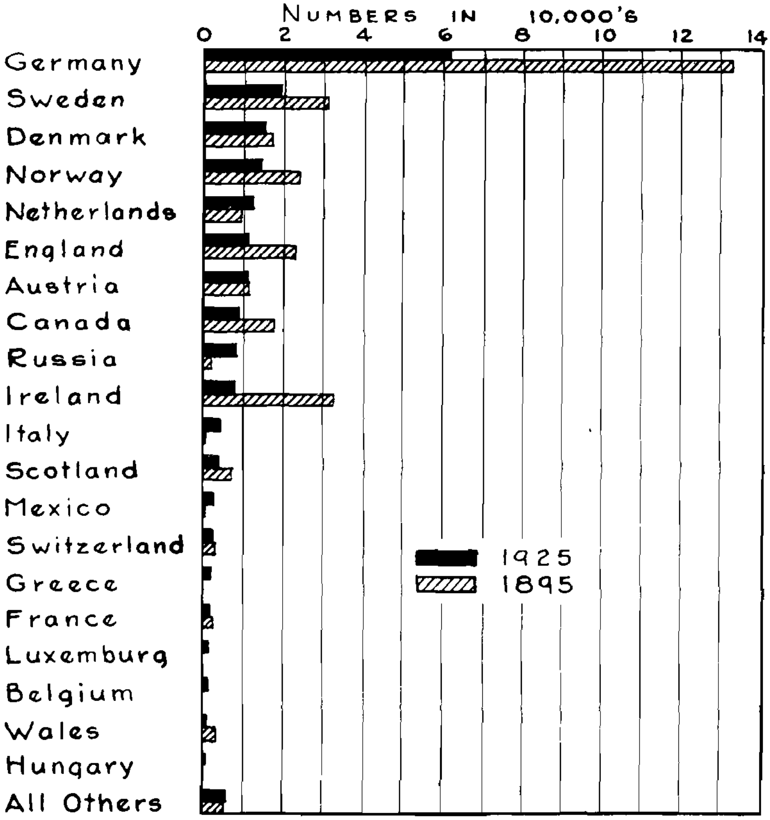


Fig. 14. Number of foreign born in Iowa with country of birth, 1925.

23,411 English, nearly 18,000 Canadians and almost as many Danes, while there were a few more than 9,000 from the Netherlands.

Scott County alone had 10,044 Germans, Dubuque 8,113, Clinton 6,640 and Des Moines County over 4,000. Crawford County had 3,763, Carroll, Clayton and Plymouth more than 3,000 each. Muscatine, Lee and Grundy had 2,972, 2,739 and 2,672, respectively. The Irish were still concentrated in Dubuque, but considerable numbers were in Clinton, Scott and Polk counties. From 500 to 1,000 were in each of the counties of Webster, Woodbury, Crawford and Pottawattamie.

The Swedes had gone into widely scattered areas of the state but had settled in Polk, Boone, Webster and Des Moines counties in largest numbers. Each of these counties had from 2,000 to 2,500 of that nationality. Woodbury and Montgomery each had between 1,500 and 2,000, Buena Vista, Page and Wapello more than 1,000 each.

The Norwegians had likewise located in several widely scattered areas, with the highest concentration in Winneshiek County where there were more than 3,000. Winnebago had more than 2,000 while Worth, Hamilton and Story Counties each had between 1,500 and 2,000. Of the counties immediately adjoining Winneshiek, Allamakee alone had as many as 1,000. The English were sparsely scattered thruout the state, Polk county alone having as many as 1,000. The 17,043 Danes in the state were not greatly concentrated, except in Shelby and Pottawattamie counties where there were between 1,500 and 2,000 in each. Of the foreign born in Iowa probably the Hollanders have shown the strongest tendency to concentrate in settlements. Of the 9,126 Hollanders in the state in 1895, 4,325 were located in Sioux County and 1,638 in Marion County. Of all the other counties, Mahaska alone had as many as 500.

PRESENT DAY FOREIGN BORN AND FOREIGN STOCK

Figure 15, map 1 shows by counties the percentage which the foreign born in Iowa constituted of the total population in 1900. Map 2, fig. 15, shows the native born of foreign or mixed parentage at that date while map 3, fig. 15, shows the percentage these two combined constituted of the total population of the various counties at that time. This latter may be said to constitute the foreign stock in the population as it was in 1900. Native born Americans of foreign or mixed parentage inherit largely the cultural traits and institutional life of their foreign parents, especially where the latter constitute any large percentage of the total population. This is particularly noticeable in certain communities where the native European language is used in the home and in public gatherings.

Figure 16 presents information for 1925 similar to that just given for 1900. Note the high percentage of foreign stock in some of the northern counties of the state. Most of the counties having a high percentage of foreign born show considerable decreases in the percentage of their numbers since 1900.

Table VIII gives the number and percentage of the native white of native parents, the native white of foreign or mixed parentage, foreign born white and colored in Iowa's population for 1890, 1900, 1910 and 1925. Figure 17 shows clearly the changes in percentage which took place between the dates given. The native white element is rapidly increasing in percentage, while the foreign born is showing a corresponding decrease. Between 1890 and 1900 the native born of foreign or mixed parentage increased from 26.9 to 29.2 percent of the total population in the state. Since the latter date their percentage has been gradually decreasing. It is to be assumed, of course, that in time the foreign stock will constitute but a small fraction of the population of Iowa. The result will be a more homogeneous population and many local, state and national problems will be somewhat simplified.

INTER-COUNTY AND INTER-STATE MIGRATIONS

One significant characteristic of the people of the western hemisphere is their tendency to move from place to place. Such movements represent attempts on the part of individuals to secure for themselves better social and economic opportunities. When these movements take place in large proportions they oftentimes give rise to serious social and economic problems. In this study the extent of movement from county to county within the state and from Iowa to other states was determined. The study of the county to county movement was limited to

TABLE VIII. RACE AND NATIVITY ELEMENTS IN IOWA POPULATION BY NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE FOR 1925, 1910, 1900 AND 1890.

	1925[1]	1910[2]	1900[2]	1890[2]
Total	2,419,927	2,224,771	2,231,853	1,911,896
Native white of native parents				
Number	1,574,647	1,303,526	1,261,068	1,063,967
Percent	65.1	58.6	56.5	55.6
Native white of foreign or mixed parentage				
Number	631,731	632,181	651,817	513,187
Percent	26.10	28.4	29.2	26.9
Foreign born white				
Number	192,486	273,484	305,782	323,932
Percent	8.0	12.3	13.7	16.9
Colored				
Number	21,063	15,580	13,186	10,810
Percent	.8	.7	.6	.6

[1]From 1915 Census of Iowa. p.XXXV
From 1925 Census of Iowa. p.XIV

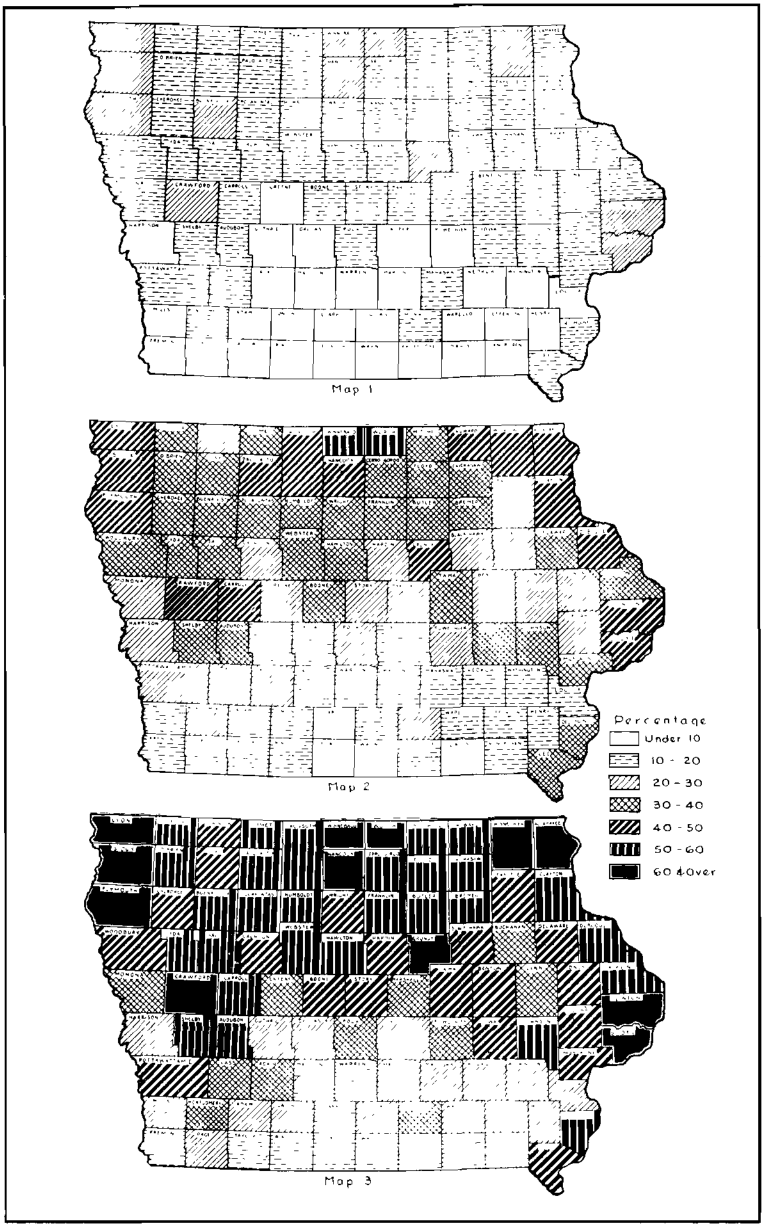


Fig. 15: map 1. Percentage which foreign born constituted of total population, by counties, in 1900.
Map 2. Percentage which native born of foreign or mixed parentage constituted of total population, by counties, in 1900.
Map 3. Percentage which foreign stock constituted of total population, by counties, in 1900.

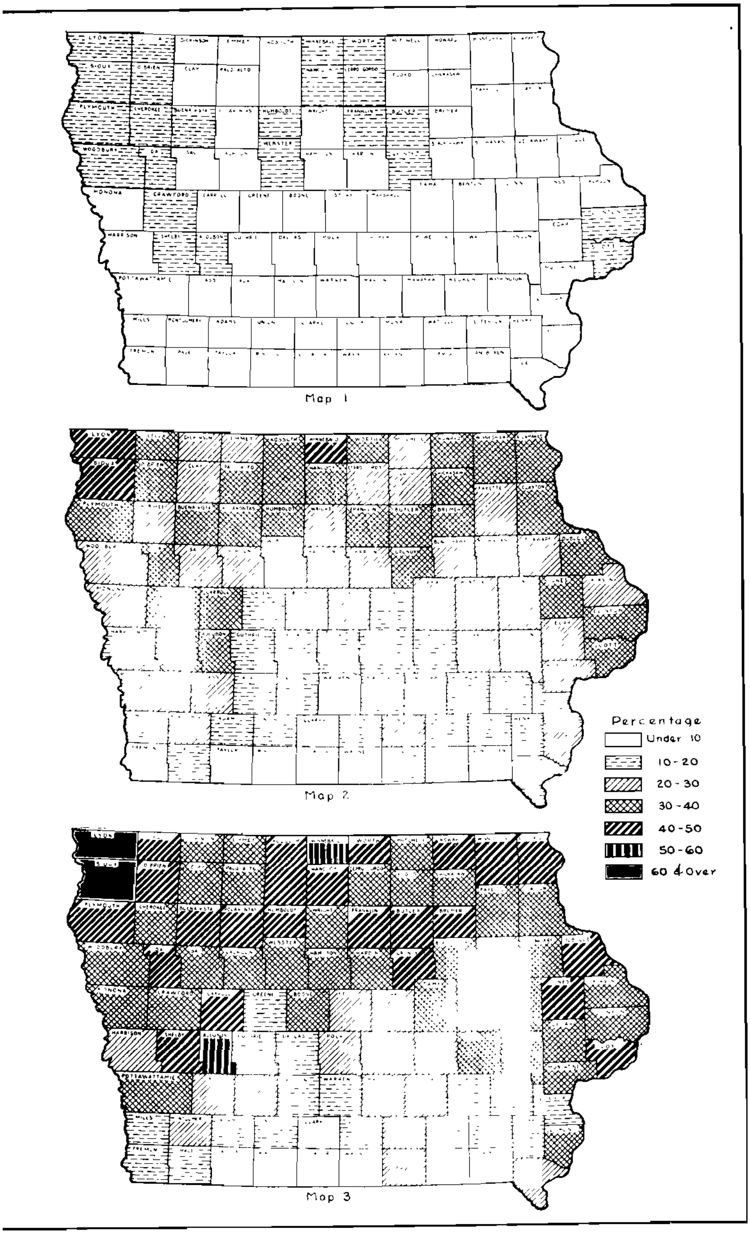


Fig. 16: map 1. Percentage which foreign born constituted of total population, by unties, in 1925.
Map 2. Percentage which native born of foreign or mixed parentage constituted of tal population, by counties, in 1925.
Map 3. Percentage which foreign stock constituted of total population, by counties, 1925.

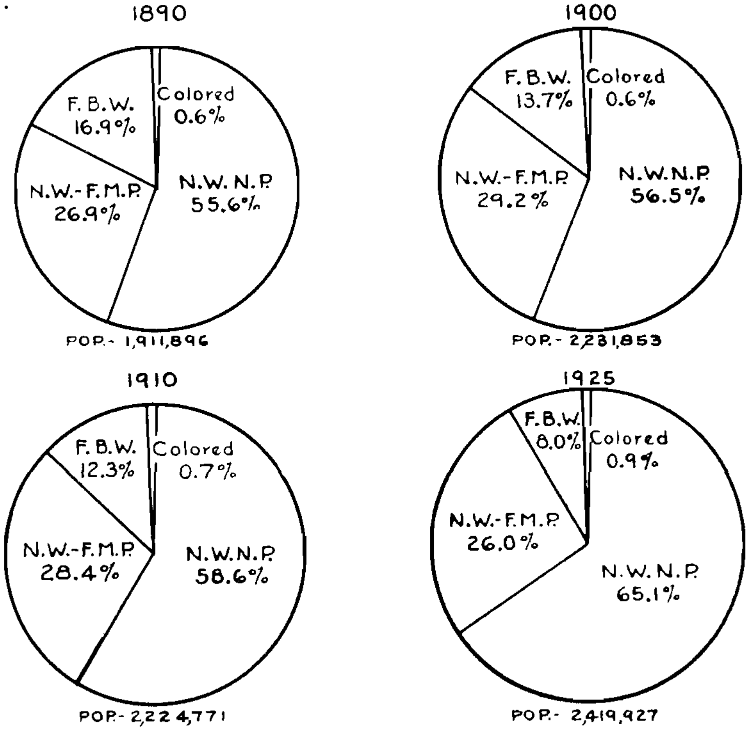


Fig. 17. Race and nativity elements composing the population of Iowa in percentage for 1890, 1900, 1910 and 1925.

1895, since data for later years were not available. Figure 18 shows the number of native Iowans who, prior to 1895, had moved from the county in which they were born to Story County. It will be observed that circles in the counties in the eastern half of the state are considerably larger than those in the western half, indicating the movement from east to west. It is interesting to note the large number who had moved into Story County from Scott County. The writers were unable to find a satisfactory explanation of this. Polk County alone approximated Scott in the number of native born moving into Story County. Altho there was some movement into Story County from practically all the counties farther west, few show numbers approximating the counties in the eastern half of the state.

Map 2, fig. 18, shows the number of persons who prior to 1895 had moved from Story County—the place of their birth—into other counties of the state. It will be observed that aside

from the counties immediately adjoining, the heaviest movements were from southeast to northwest. Altho Story County is fairly typical of the movement thruout the state, there are some sharp contrasts to this general tendency.

Figure 19 similarly shows the movements into Dubuque County and from Dubuque to other counties. It is interesting to note the general westward movement, but particularly the

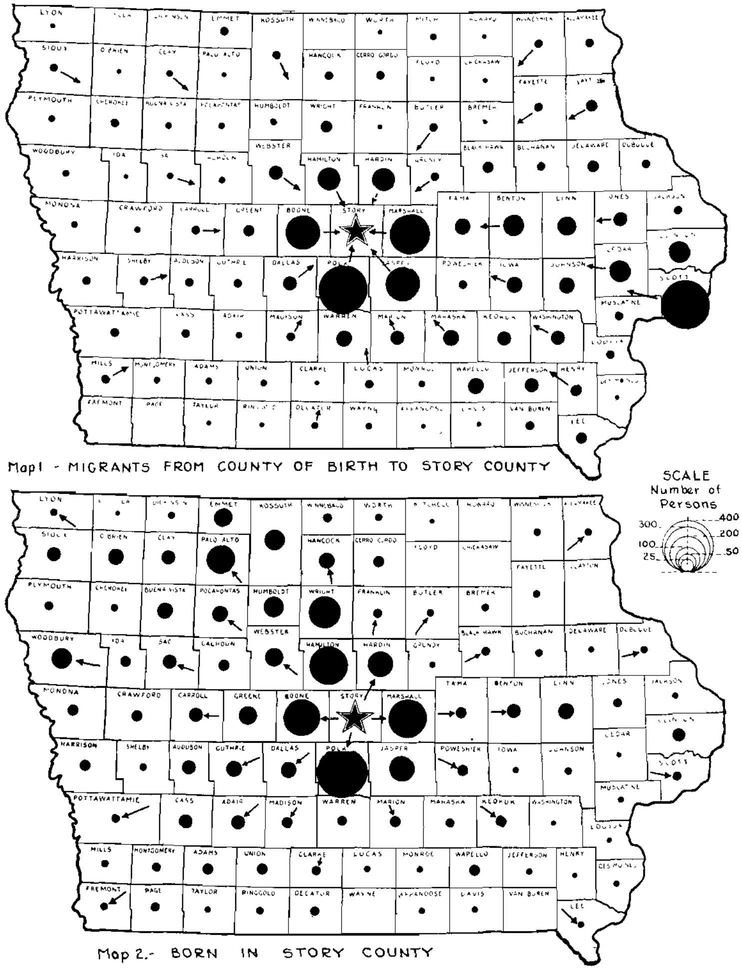


Fig. 18: map 1. Migrants from county of birth residing in Story County, 1895. Map 2. Born in Story County, residing in other counties in 1895.

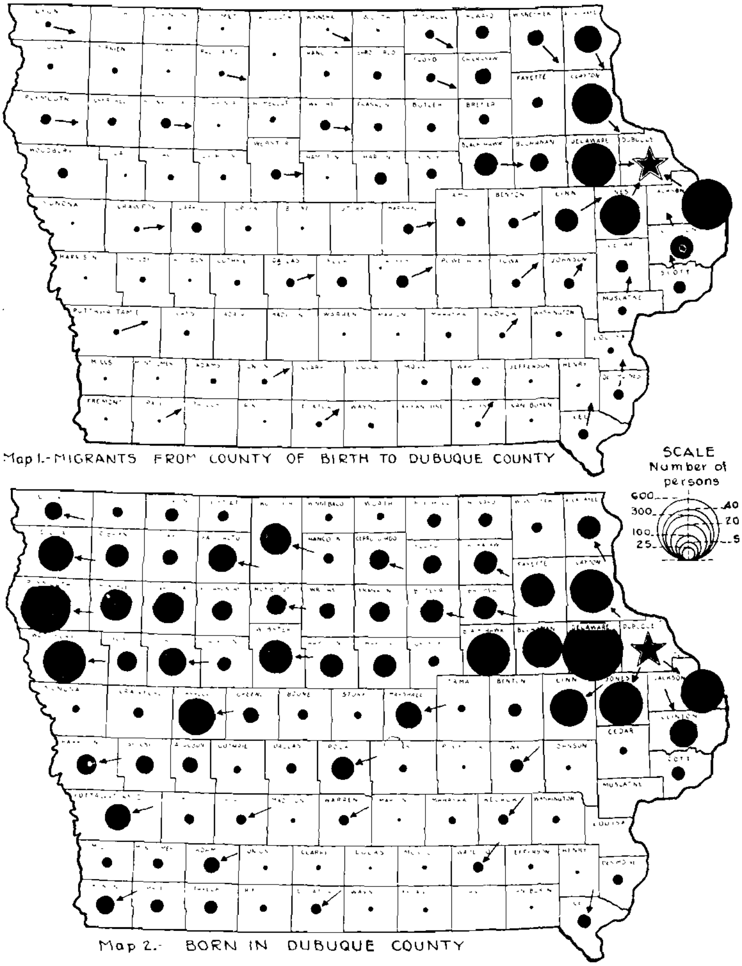


Fig. 19: map 1. Migrants from county of birth, residing in Dubuque County 1895.
Map 2. Born in Dubuque County, residing in other counties in 1895.

relatively large numbers that moved the full length of th state locating in Missouri River counties.

Fig. 20, maps 1 and 2, show these "in" and "out" movemen for Clinton County. Observe especially the movement froi Clinton to Crawford, Sac, Carroll, Woodbury and Ida Countie It would be interesting to know the combination of factoi which was responsible for this heavy movement into thes counties.

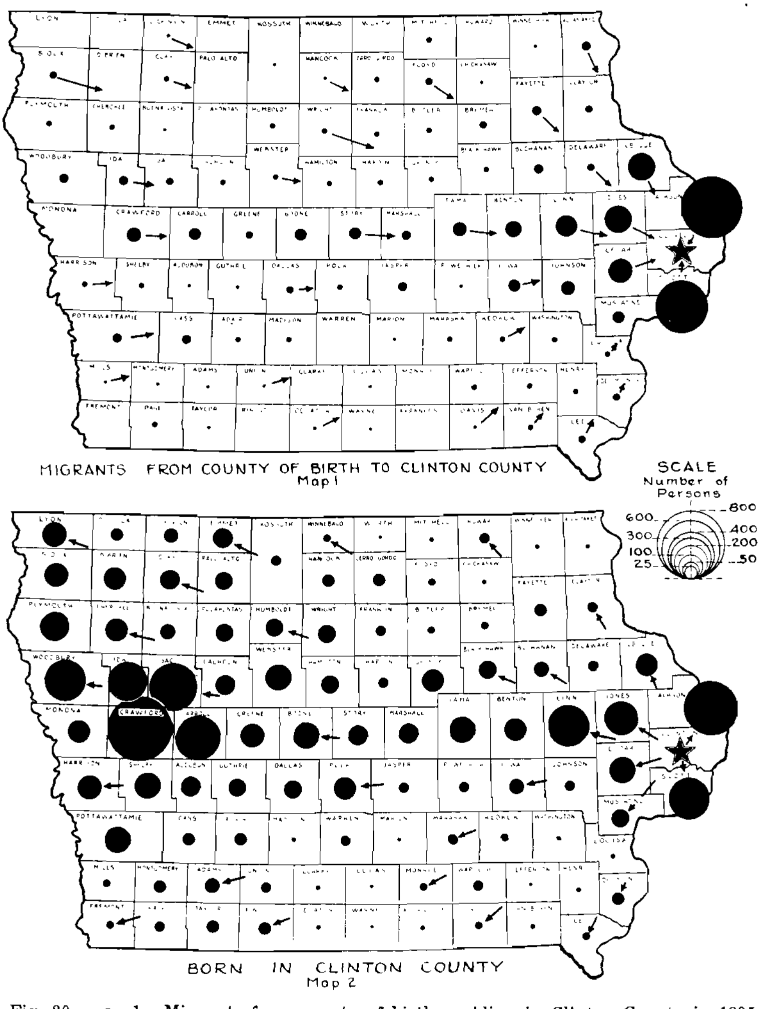


Fig. 20: map 1. Migrants from county of birth, residing in Clinton County in 1895. Map. 2. Born in Clinton County, residing in other counties in 1895.

Something more of the extent of this shifting of population from place of birth to other countries or to other sections of their native land is shown in fig. 21 which gives the percentage of the population that in 1895 reported having been born elsewhere and had moved into the county. It will be seen that more than 75 percent of the residents of Dickinson County and from 70 to 75 percent of the residents of 11 other counties in the northwestern part of the state had moved in from else-

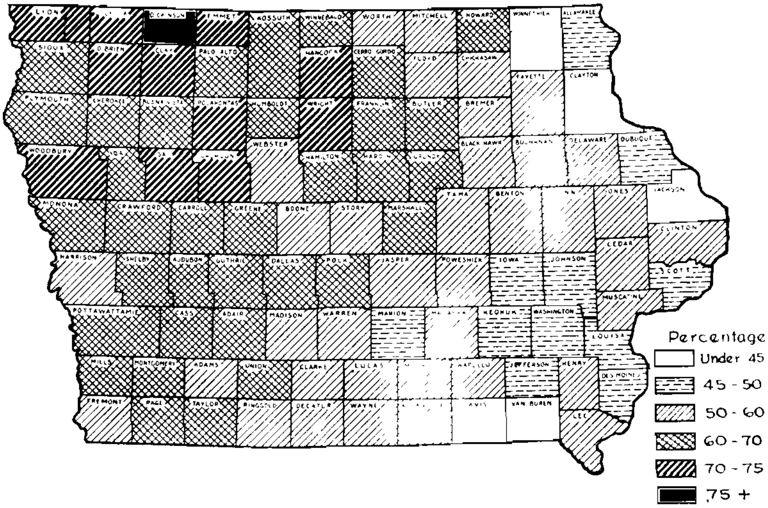


Fig. 21. Percentage of the population in 1895 born elsewhere, by counties.

where. Later census reports have not included these county to county migrations, but it is likely that in later years they have been less common than formerly.

Among the advantages resulting from this extensive movement from county to county one should mention the effective and rapid diffusion of culture. Business methods, farm practices, institutional organizations and administrative methods found valuable in one county or community are quickly transmitted to other communities. Much of the progress made by any people can be attributed to population mobility with its attendant rapid dissemination of ideas. Altho large gains to society result from extensive mobility, many perplexing problems are direct outgrowths of this constant shift of population.

MIGRATIONS FROM IOWA

In a previous discussion of the settlement of the state attention was called to the heavy migrations of people from other states into Iowa. These movements and their changes were shown in figs. 12 and 13.

Altho movements into Iowa from other states have been heavy, large numbers have also moved from Iowa into other states. The numbers involved as reported to census enumerators in 1870, 1890, 1900, 1910 and 1920 are given in table IX.

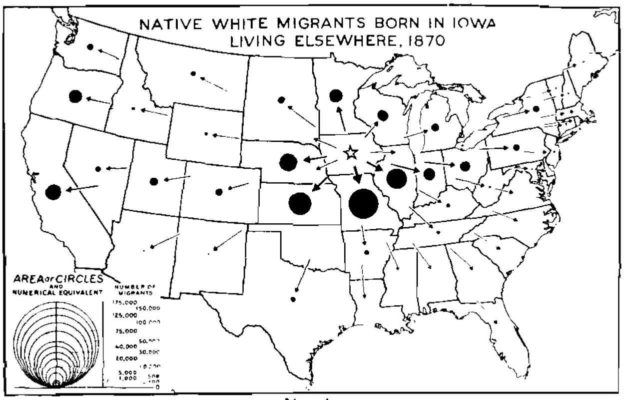
Figure 22 shows the extent of movement from Iowa to other states as given in the federal census reports of 1870, 1890 and 1920.

In 1870 relatively large numbers of native Iowans were living in Missouri, Kansas, Illinois and Nebraska, while in 1890 by far more Iowa-born people were residents of Nebraska than of any state other than Iowa, altho large numbers were located in Kansas and South Dakota as well as Missouri, Illinois and Minnesota. Notice the increase in numbers in the Pacific states. Map 3, fig. 22, presents an almost unbelievable picture showing the very large numbers of Iowans who had

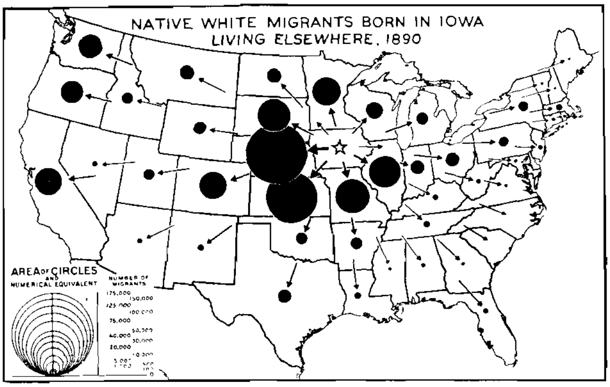
TABLE IX. NATIVE BORN IOWANS LIVING IN STATES NAMED IN 1920 1910, 1900, 1890, AND 1870.*

State	Number of persons				
	1920	1910	1900	1890	1870
Alabama	1,217	857	624	324	31
Alaska	—	—	480	—	—
Arizona	4,087	2,417	1,453	617	—
Arkansas	6,431	5,286	4,526	3,229	652
California	87,551	54,960	26,789	18,372	5,361
Colorado	45,253	44,276	24,960	20,008	—
Connecticut	792	582	508	287	120
Delaware	146	104	55	20	11
District of Columbia	—	—	758	414	—
Florida	3,457	1,042	706	594	19
Georgia	1,253	771	378	175	20
Hawaii		—	98	—	—
Idaho	17,779	16,168	6,124	2,938	—
Illinois	72,989	57,948	48,096	24,522	11,312
Indiana	8,864	7,246	6,670	4,539	3,472
Indian Territory		—	2,702	—	—
Iowa	1,624,606	1,416,584	1,318,377	999,453	427,224
Kansas	55,062	64,333	88,153	66,148	12,990
Kentucky	1,132	936	775	571	330
Louisiana	2,259	1,711	1,466	846	67
Maine	263	247	187	117	49
Maryland	1,168	634	396	189	70
Massachusetts	2,045	1,672	1,481	888	260
Michigan	11,532	6,446	4,866	3,534	1,478
Minnesota	105,853	67,100	42,096	20,841	3,956
Mississippi	993	830	589	226	1,031
Missouri	56,302	56,893	52,575	37,312	22,383
Montana	27,666	17,455	9,005	4,792	—
Nebraska	92,115	94,623	85,807	95,886	7,605
Nevada	1,569	1,008	601	597	492
New Hampshire	236	237	215	148	57
New Jersey	2,146	1,342	884	428	179
New Mexico	3,428	4,184	1,268	795	—
New York	9,337	6,126	4,358	2564	886
North Carolina	379	235	149	57	65
North Dakota	27,631	30,553	9,005	4,559	—
Ohio	10,691	7,704	6,805	4,433	2,824
Oklahoma	34,004	41,186	19,255	3,013	—
Oregon	30,309	28,242	15,730	12,478	3,694
Pennsylvania	5,715	4,160	3,496	2,134	948
Rhode Island	260	207	152	94	28
South Carolina	306	104	55	24	6
South Dakota	71,463	75,815	31,047	26,128	—
Tennessee	1,549	1,405	1,362	833	253
Texas	15,958	11,858	5,986	3,967	541
Utah	4,348	4,303	3,035	2,402	—
Vermont	337	324	299	179	69
Virginia	1,552	850	392	205	39
Washington	49,254	47,862	20,015	14,512	—
West Virginia	759	606	442	424	178
Wiscosin	26,214	16,312	11,932	6,986	2,416
Wyoming	13,903	10,651	6,112	3,636	—

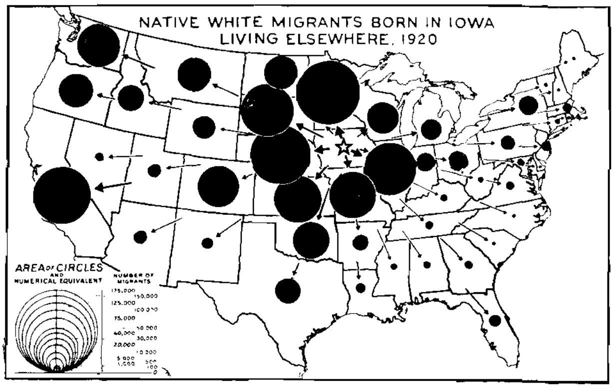
*Federal Census. Reports on Population.



Map 1



Map 2



Map 3

Fig. 22: map 1. Native white migrants born in Iowa living elsewhere in 1870.
Map 2. Native white migrants born in Iowa livng elsewhere in 1890.
Map 3. Native white migrants born in Iowa living elsewhere in 1920.

moved to other states prior to 1920. All the states bordering Iowa were heavy recipients of Iowa's sons and daughters, while California, Washington and Oregon as well as the Rocky Mountain states came in for their generous share. Of all the states in the Union, Iowa stood alone in 1910 as having suffered an absolute loss in total population. More will be said of this in another connection.

RURAL-URBAN DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION OF IOWA

From the beginnings of civilization man has depended primarily upon agriculture for his food supply. It was agriculture that led the first permanent settlers into Iowa, and it was the agricultural possibilities of Iowa's fertile lands that brought the enormous immigration of settlers who transformed the 55,000 square miles of the state's area into productive farms in approximately a half century. In the past Iowa people have been predominantly agricultural in their point of view on local, national and international issues, but this point of view is gradually and apparently permanently turning urban in its interests.

Table X beginning with 1838 gives the total population of Iowa at various census enumerations and, beginning with 1870, the numbers composing the rural and urban elements in this population, with the percentage which each was of the total. In this table all cities, towns and incorporated villages were classed as "urban" while all other territory was classed as "rural." It will be observed that of the total population of 1,194,020 in 1870, more than 900,000 were living on farms and in unincorporated hamlets, while approximately 280,000 lived in cities, towns and incorporated villages. Since that date the

TABLE X. POPULATION OF IOWA AT GIVEN CENSUS DATES SINCE 1838, AND ITS RURAL AND URBAN ELEMENTS SINCE 1870, WITH PERCENT EACH WAS OF TOTAL.

Year	Total population	Rural (1)		Urban (2)	
		Population	Percent	Population	Percentage
1930	2,469,889	• 1,026,671	41.6	1,443,228	58.4
1920	2,404.021	1,053,060	43.8	1,350,961	56.2
1910	2,224,771	1,117,642	50.2	1,107,229	49.8
1900	2,231,853	1,261,230	56.5	970,623	43.5
1890	1,911,896	1,209,634	63.3	702,262	36.7
1880	1,624,615	1,094,615 (3)	67.4	530,000 (3)	32.6
1870	1,194,020	914,020 (3)	76.6	280,000 (3)	23.4
1860	674,913				
1850	192,214				
1840	43,112				
1838	22,859				

1. Farm population and unincorporated hamlets.
2. Cities, towns and incorporated villages.
3. Approximately correct from 1915 Census, page xiv.

Adopted from table XII and 1925 Census of Iowa.

number of people living in urban communities has rapidly and constantly increased, while the number living in the rural communities has shown irregular increases and decreases, with an apparently permanent decrease since 1900. Attention has just been called to the decrease in the number composing the rural element since 1900. Two factors were mainly causal in this phenomenon. One was the increased size of farms and the other a decrease in the size of the farm family.

From 1900 to 1925 the number of farms in Iowa decreased from 228,622 of 151.2 acres each to 208,789 of approximately 157 acres each, a difference of 19,833 farms. Assuming that a family of 4.6 persons lived on each of these, the state average in 1900, their removal would represent a decrease of 91,231 in the rural population. From 1900 to 1925 the size of farm family in Iowa decreased from 4.6 to 4.2 persons, a decrease of four-tenths of one person per family. For the 208,789 farms in the state in 1925 this would represent a decrease of 83,515 persons, which added to the 91,231 mentioned above would be a total decrease of 174,746 in the farm population. It must not be assumed that all these persons moved to urban places. Many of them became hired men living in tenant houses, while many moved to small unincorporated villages and hamlets. Other perhaps less important factors in the decrease of rural population were the increasing use of labor-saving machinery, which enabled the farmer to dispense with the hired man or a grown son and the tendency for grown daughters to find employment in the city. In addition there has been an increasing tendency for farmers to retire earlier in life than formerly, many of them moving to nearby towns or villages, turning their farms over to married sons or daughters or other tenants whose families were as yet incomplete and therefore smaller. Figure 23 compares the percentages composing the rural and urban elements of the total population at various census enumerations since 1870, using the term "urban" according to the state census to include all cities, towns and incorporated vil-

TABLE XI. RURAL AND URBAN POPULATION OF IOWA 1880 TO 1930.

Year	Rural[1]		Urban[2]	
	Population	Percentage	Population	Percent
1930	1,495,784	60.6	974,115	39.4
1920	1,528,526	63.6	875,495	36.4
1910	1,544,717	69.4	680,054	30.6
1900	1,659,467	74.4	572,386	25.6
1890	1,506,533	78.8	405,764	21.2
1880	1,377,188	84.8	247,427	15.2

[1]Includes all farm population and towns of less than 2,500 population.
[2] Includes only cities and towns of 2,500 people and over.

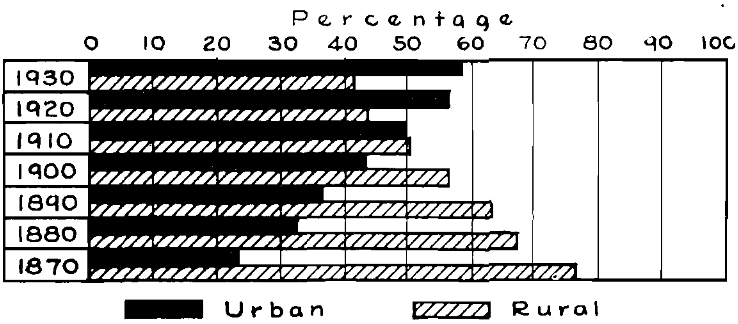


Fig. 23. Urban ("Urban" here includes all incorporated places) and rural elements composing the total population of Iowa from 1870-1930, in percent.

lages, while "rural" includes farms and unincorporated villages and hamlets. Table X shows that from 1900 to 1930 the rural population of Iowa decreased from 1,261,230 to 1,026,671 persons.

The reader should keep clearly in mind that there are two uses of the terms "rural" and "urban." For Iowa census enumerations, which are taken at intervals midway between those of the federal censuses, all cities, towns and incorporated villages are classed as "urban" while all villages and hamlets not incorporated are classed with farms as "rural."

According to federal interpretation, the term "urban" includes all people living in places of 2,500 or more population, while "rural" includes all other territory.

A comparison was made of the rural and urban elements in the population using these terms according to the federal interpretation. Table XI gives the number and percentage of Iowa's population on this basis for census dates beginning with 1880. According to the federal use of the terms, rural and urban, these elements are distributed as shown in fig. 24. If we use the federal interpretation of urban our population is still

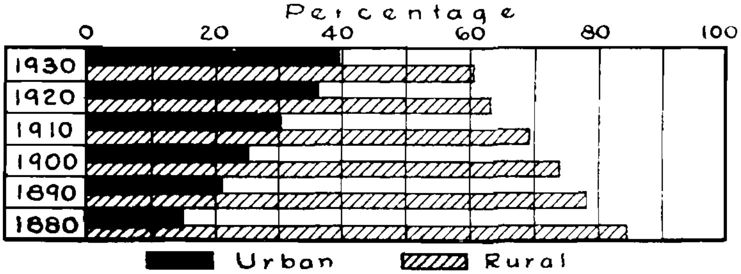


Fig. 24. Urban ("Urban here includes only cities of 2,500 or over) and rural elements composing the total population of Iowa from 1880-1930, in percent.

60.6 percent rural, whereas if we class all incorporated towns and villages as urban Iowa is only 40 percent rural.

Figure 25 shows for the state and by counties the percentage which the rural and urban elements each constituted of the total population in 1930, 1920, 1910 and 1900. For the state and most of the counties a distinct trend toward an increase in the urban element will be observed. This is particularly true in counties in which the larger cities are located.

The effect of urbanization on population density is clearly seen in fig. 26 which shows the density of the total population by counties as reported in the 1925 census. The average density per square mile for the state was 43.5 persons, with a range extending from 22.2 for Ringgold County to 290.6 for Polk County in which Des Moines is located. It should be understood that cities are both causal and resultant in high densities of population where they exist. The rural population ranged in density from 13.9 for Ringgold County to 32.1 for Monroe County. The reader should be reminded that the high density in Monroe County was due largely to the presence of large numbers of miners living in unincorporated mining communities.

GROWTH OF CITIES

A study was made of the cities, towns and villages in the various classes to determine changes in the number of such places in the state, and their growth or decline since 1890. Table XII gives the number and aggregate population of ur-

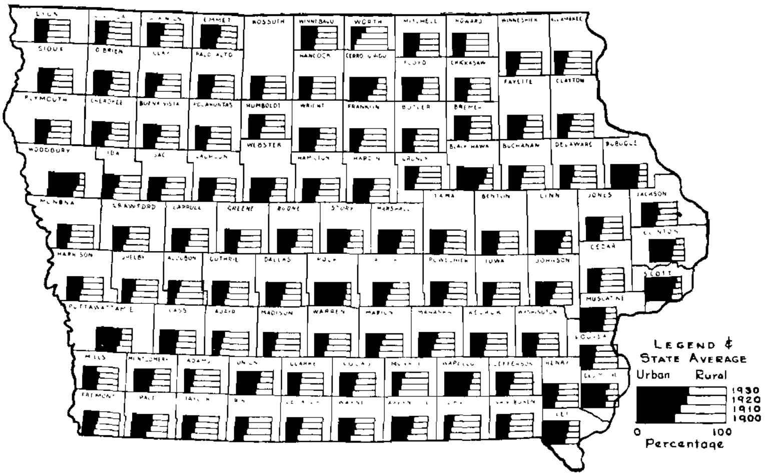


Fig. 25. Urban ("urban" here includes all incorporated places) and rural elements composing the population of Iowa for the state and by counties, in percent, for 1930, 1920, 1910 and 1900.

ban places of specified classes since 1890 compared with the population of farms and unincorporated places, often called the "open country." It will be seen that the larger cities and towns are increasing both in number and size. In 1890, 46 cities and towns in Iowa each had a population of 2,500 or over, totalling 405,764, while in 1930 there were 80 such places with a total population of 974,115. In 1890 cities in these classes comprised 21.2 percent of the total population, while in 1930 such places comprised 39.4 percent. The reader should understand that from one census date to the next an increase of 10 people in a town of 2,490 inhabitants adds a population of 2,500 to the "urban" class and reduces the "village" population 2,490. With these facts in mind it should be observed that in 1890 the aggregate population of the 416 villages in the state totalled 296,498, while by 1930 there were 837 such places with a total population of 469,112, a gain of 172,614 people. During the same period the open country population had increased from 1,209,634 in 1890 to 1,261,230, in 1900, and the decreased to 1,026,671 in 1930, showing a loss of 234,559 in 30 years. Figure 27 shows graphically the changes in the relative percentages which the various urban places bore to the open country population and to each other. Observe the unmistakable increase in the urban element at the expense of the open country.

The question is often asked as to what is to become of the country village. From the figures in table XII there is ample evidence that from 1920 to 1930 country villages sustained sig-

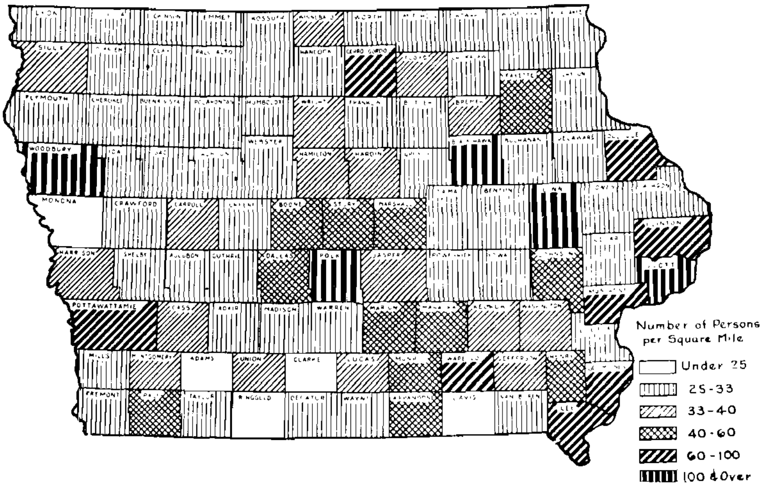


Fig. 26. Density of population by counties in 1925.

TABLE XII. NUMBER AND AGGREGATE POPULATION OF CITIES AND VILLAGES OF SPECIFIED CLASSES AND POPULATION OF FARMS AND UNINCORPORATED HAMLETS. 1930, 1920, 1910, 1900 AND 1890.

	1930[1]			1920			1910			1900			1890		
	No.	Population	Per-cent	No.	Population	Per-cent	No.	Population	Per-cent	No	Population	Per-cent	No.	Population	Per-cent
State Total		2,469,899	100		2,404,021	100		2,224,771	100		2,231,853	100		1,911,896	100
Cities[2] Total	80	974,115	39.4	81	875,495	36.4	69	680,054	30.6	70	572,386	25.6	46	405,764	21.2
100,000	1	142,469	5.8	1	126,468	5.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25,000 — 100,000	9	406,099	16.4	6	285,053	11.9	8	330,091	14.8	6	218,259	9.8	4	145,802	7.6
10,000 — 25,000	11	167,204	6.8	11	192,629	8.0	9	137,107	6.2	8	129,096	5.8	7	115,234	6.0
5,000 — 10,000	14	94,092	3.8	18	114,802	4.8	9	59,402	2.7	10	70,618	3.2	8	56,582	3.0
2,500 — 5,000	45	164,251	6.7	45	156,543	6.5	43	153,454	6.9	46	154,413	6.9	27	88,866	4.6
Villages[3] Total	837	469,113	19.0	828	475,466	19.8	715	427,175	19.2	601	398,237	17.8	416	296,498	15.5
1,000 — 2,500	124	189,300	7.7	129	192,550	8.0	114	172,417	7.7	116	173,057	7.8	—	—	—
500 — 1,000	213	148,418	6.0	219	154,369	6.4	209	143,854	6.5	196	136,336	6.1	—	—	—
Under 500	500	131,395	5.3	480	128,547	5.3	392	110,904	5.0	289	88,844	4.0	—	—	—
Farm and Unincorporated Hamlets		1,026,671	41.6		1,053,060	43.8		1,117,642	50.2		1,261,230	56.5		1,209,634	63.3

[1]Preliminary report supervisors of fifteenth Census.
[2]Urban population derived from federal census reports.
[3]Village population derived from Iowa census report on urban population.

nificant decreases. Note that in 1920 there were 828 villages with a total population of 475,466, while at the time of the 1930 census the number had increased to 837; whereas their total population had decreased to 469,113. The reader should be reminded that in 1928 there were 887 small unincorporated hamlets in Iowa ranging in size from 5 to 300 or more people each with a total population of 100,437. They averaged 113

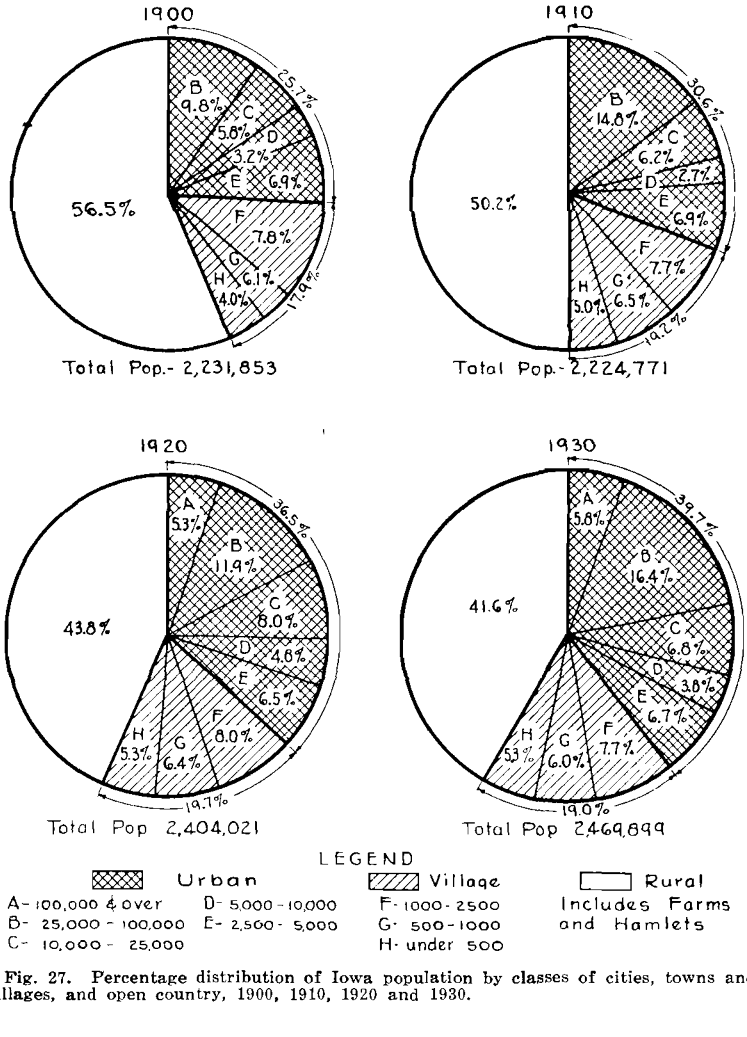


Fig. 27. Percentage distribution of Iowa population by classes of cities, towns and villages, and open country, 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1930.

persons each. In addition to these 887 there were 611 other small places for which population numbers were not given.[1]

From time to time one of these small places is incorporated to secure certain economic and social advantages thru corporate action. This act of incorporating automatically reduces the "rural" population by the number residing within the corporation limits and increases the "urban" population by that number. During the decade from 1915 to 1925, 37 such places incorporated involving a total population of 8,213. By this process the urban population gained 8,213 inhabitants while the rural population decreased by that number.

A study was made of all the urban places of all sizes to determine which classes had grown and which had decreased in size from 1920 to 1930. Table XIII gives the result of this study.

It will be observed that cities of 5,000 or more people with but two exceptions made significant gains while towns below 1,000 in population showed distinct losses. Of the 213 villages ranging in size from 500 to 1,000 people, 78 gained a total of 5,604 people, while 135 lost 9,329, resulting in a net decrease of 3,725 for villages of that size. Of the 500 incorporated vilages under 500 in population, 199 gained a total population of 7,001, while the remaining 301 lost 12,077, resulting in a net decrease of 5,076 people. These figures are preliminary releases from the census supervisors, however, and may need slight revision when final reports are available.

[1]Cram's Atlas of the World 1929.

TABLE XIII. NUMBER OF CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES BY CLASSES, WITH AMOUNT OF INCREASE OR DECREASE FROM 1920 TO 1930[1]

Classes	Increase		Decrease		Increase or decrease
	No.	Number	No.	Number	Net
Urban total	66	105,387	14	3,992	101,395
100,000 and over	1	15,821	0	—	+15,821
25,000 — 100,000	9	48,714	0	—	+48,714
10,000 — 25,000	10	24,030	1	568	+23,462
5,000 — 10,000	13	6,892	1	348	+ 6,544
2,500 — 5,000	33	9,930	12	3,076	+ 6,854
Village total	350	19,615	487	26,817	— 7,202
1,000 — 2,500	73	7,010	51	5,411	+ 1,599
500 — 1,000	78	5,604	135	9,329	— 3,725
Under 500	199	7,001	301	12,077	— 5,076

[1]Preliminary releases from federal census supervisors.

DECREASE IN RURAL POPULATION

A study was made to determine the extent of increase or decrease in the rural population and to locate the counties showing these changes. Figure 28 shows by counties the percentage of increase or decrease in the rural population from 1915 to 1925. The percentage of decrease is indicated by hatchings on the map, while the increases are shown by figures in the unhatched counties. It will be seen that the heaviest decreases were among the southern counties of the state. It should be explained that the loss in Marion and Appanoose counties, and possibly some of that in Mahaska, is largely accounted for by the closing down of a number of coal mines. Many of the miners moved from unincorporated places to other counties or to other states.

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION

Only brief mention can be made of the age distributions of Iowa's people and of the changes which they are undergoing. Table XIV gives the distribution of the total population by age classes for 1920, 1910 and 1856, and by age classes and sex for 1920 and 1910. The significant changes which took place between the dates given are clearly shown in fig. 29. It will be seen that the younger ages were conspicuously large during the early period while the older age classes are more prominent in later decades.

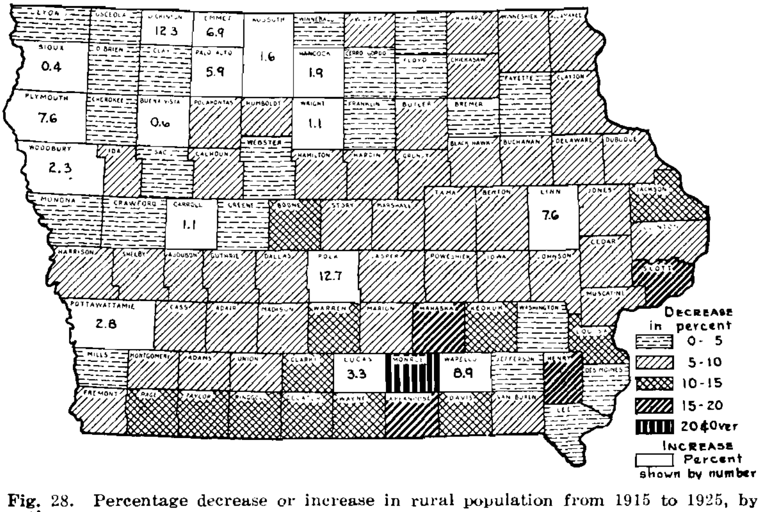


Fig. 28. Percentage decrease or increase in rural population from 1915 to 1925, by counties.

TABLE XIV. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL POPULATION OF IOWA BY AGE CLASSES FOR 1920, 1910 AND 1856, AND BY AGE CLASSES AND SEX FOR 1920 AND 1910.

Age Classes	Total Population			Males		Females	
	1920	1910	1856	1920	1910	1920	1910
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5	10.4	10.6	18.5	10.4	10.4	10.5	10.8
Under 1 yr.	2.0	2.2	—	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.2
5-9	10.0	10.3	14.4	9.9	10.1	10.1	10.5
10-14	9.5	10.0	11.8	9.4	9.8	9.6	10.2
15-19	8.9	10.1	10.3	8.7	9.9	9.2	10.3
20-44	37.6	37.4	30.1	37.3	37.4	37.9	37.4
45-over	23.4	21.5	14.6	24.2	22.2	22.6	20.7
18-44	41.2	41.5	—	40.8	41.4	41.6	41.6
21-over	59.4	57.0	—	60.0	57.8	58.8	56.1

(1920 Census Pop. Vol. III, p. 315).

Table XV gives the age distribution of the total population in the state and the percentages within these age groups living in the farm, village and urban territories.

It will be seen that 41 percent of the people in Iowa lived in farm communities, 22.9 percent in villages and 36.1 percent in urban places in 1920. These percentages differ somewhat from those given in table XII due to a different classification of farm and village population. Of the 10.4 percent of the total population of Iowa under 5 years of age, 49.4 percent live in farm territory, 20.3 in villages and 30.3 percent in cities of 2,500 or over. It will be seen that 16 percent of the people in Iowa are within the ages of 25 to 34 years, and that 39.8 percent of these live in farm communities, 20.5 percent in villages and 39.8 percent in cities of 2,500 or over. Fig. 30 shows clearly some very significant differences between the farm, village and urban communities. Much larger proportions of children

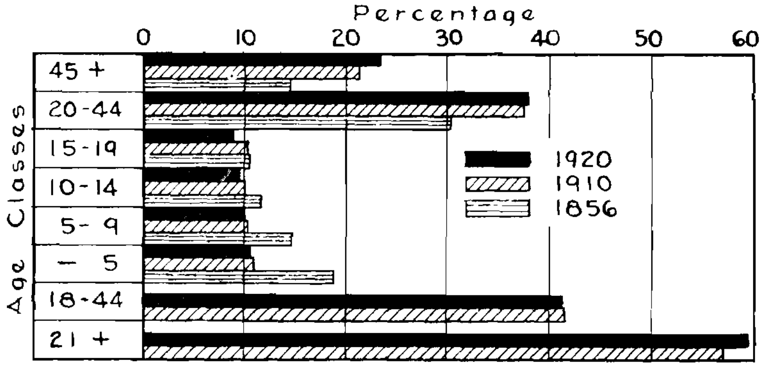


Fig. 29. Percentage of population in various age classes, 1920, 1910 and 1856.

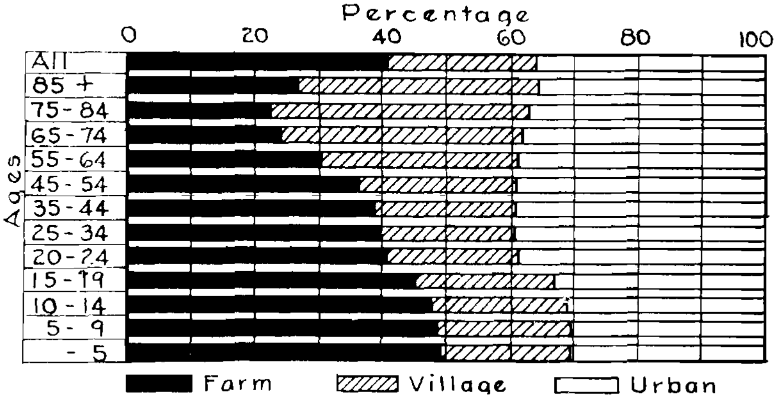


Fig. 30. Percentage of population in various age classes in farm, village and urban communities, 1920.

and young people are found within the farm population than in either village or urban communities. It is strikingly true that in the Iowa village community the older age classes greatly predominate in number. It has been said that the village is where well-to-do farmers go to die. Fig. 30 would seem to indicate the truth of this statement. An entirely different situation exists in urban communities. Children are conspicuously in the minority, while men and women of the ages when life is strong and productive greatly predominate. There are relatively few children to be reared and relatively more men and women in the active period of life to bear the burden of rearing them.

TABLE XV. DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL POPULATION OF IOWA—PERCENTAGE IN EACH AGE CLASS, AND DISTRIBUTION OF THOSE IN THE VARIOUS AGE CLASSES IN FARM, VILLAGE AND URBAN COMMUNITIES, BY PERCENT, 1920.

Age classes	Percent of total			
	Total population	Farm	Village	Urban
All ages	100.0	41.0	22.9	36.1
under 5	10.4	49.4	20.3	30.3
5-9	10.0	48.6	21.0	30.4
10-14	9.5	48.0	21.2	30.9
15-19	8.9	45.5	21.0	33.5
20-24	8.8	40.9	20.6	38.6
25-34	16.0	39.7	20.5	39.8
35-44	12.8	38.9	21.7	39.5
45-54	10.3	36.6	23.9	39.4
55-64	7.1	30.7	30.1	39.2
65-74	4.0	24.3	37.2	38.5
75-84	1.7	22.9	39.9	37.1
85 and over	0.3	27.0	36.7	36.2
age not reported	0.1	——	——	——

TABLE XVI. SEX RATIO FOR TOTAL POPULATION OF IOWA AND FOR FARM, VILLAGE AND URBAN COMMUNITIES, BY AGE CLASSES, FOR 1920.

	Males to 100 females			
Age classes	Total	Farm	Village	Urban
All ages	104.7	113.6	99.5	98.5
Under 5	103.3	104.1	102.1	102.8
5-9	102.6	104.9	100.0	101.0
10-14	101.9	107.5	96.3	97.4
15-19	99.8	113.6	91.0	88.7
20-24	97.7	111.5	91.3	88.2
25-34	104.5	112.1	99.8	99.8
35-44	105.0	112.3	100.7	100.7
45-54	113.6	131.2	104.8	104.5
55-64	113.9	146.5	101.1	102.9
65-74	111.0	145.1	104.6	99.6
75-84	100.6	108.2	105.4	91.5
85 and over	91.8	101.1	99.3	78.8
Age not reported	——	——	——	——

(*1920 Census Mono. Vi. Page 199.*)

The sex ratio of the population within the farm, village and urban communities exhibits some sharp contrasts, as will be seen in table XVI. For the total population there are 104.7 males to 100 females, and for all age classes except 15 to 24 and 85 and over there are more males than females. In the farm population males greatly predominate in numbers but

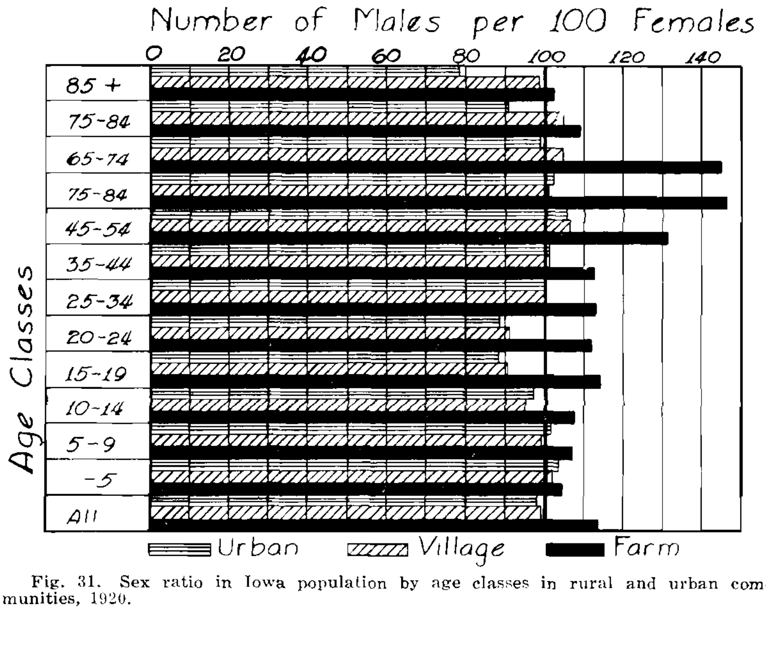


Fig. 31. Sex ratio in Iowa population by age classes in rural and urban communities, 1920.

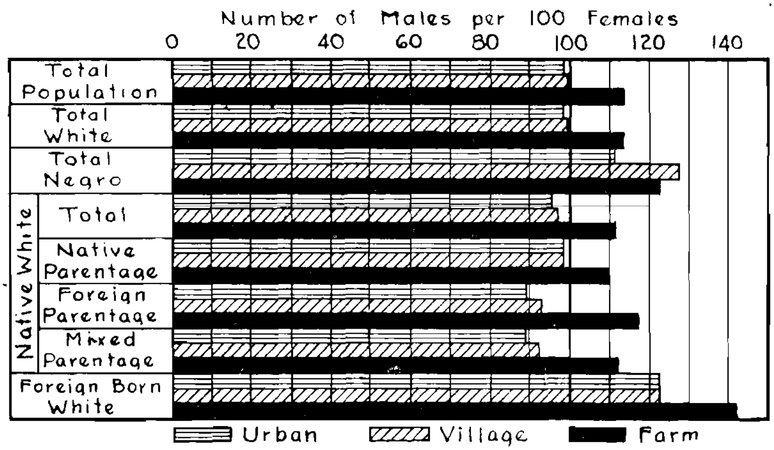


Fig. 32. Sex ratio for total population and by race and nativity classes in farm, village and urban communities, 1925.

particularly so in the ages from 45 to 74. Fig. 31 portrays the sex ratio by age classes for farm, village and urban communities. It will be seen that females predominate in number in village and urban communities in the age classes 10 to 24 and in urban communities in the age classes 75 and over.

Since Iowa has a relatively large element of foreign stock in her population, it was thought worth while to ascertain any differences that might exist as to sex ratio among the various nativities for farm, village and urban communities. Table XVII presents data on these points while fig. 32 shows clearly the sex ratios among the different race and nativity classes

TABLE XVII. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FARM, VILLAGE AND URBAN POPULATION BY RACE, NATIVITY AND PARENTAGE, AND SEX RATIO, 1920

	Percent distribution - both sexes				Males to 100 females		
	Total	Farm	Village	Urban	Farm	Village	Urban
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	113.6	99.5	98.5
White	99.2	99.9	99.4	98.2	113.6	99.4	98.2
Negro	0.8	0.1	0.6	1.8	122.3	127.1	111.2
Indian	(1)	(1)	0.1	(1)	——	104.7	——
Other colored	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	——	——	——
Native white	89.8	92.0	88.9	87.9	111.4	96.9	95.7
Native parentage	63.6	63.2	65.0	63.1	109.8	98.5	98.5
Foreign parentage	15.7	16.9	14.3	15.2	117.2	93.0	89.1
Mixed parentage	10.5	11.9	9.5	9.7	112.0	92.7	89.1
Foreign born white	9.4	8.0	10.5	10.3	141.9	122.7	122.3

(1). Less than one-tenth of 1 percent.

in these communities. It will be seen that for all nativity classes, except the foreign born and colored, urban and village communities have fewer males than females. On the other hand in all classes males predominate in the farm communities.

THE FAMILY

MARITAL CONDITION OF IOWA PEOPLE

Much publicity has been given to the belief that during the last 20 years marriage has been more and more postponed till later in life and that smaller percentages of the population ever marry. Table XVIII gives in percentage the martial condition of Iowa people 15 years of age or over by sex and age classes for 1920, 1910 and 1900.

From this table, fig. 33 was constructed which shows by sex the percentages of the population of Iowa 15 years of age or over single, married, widowed or divorced in 1920, 1910, and 1900. It will be seen that there is a larger and larger percentage of the population entering marriage and a corresponding decrease in the percentage remaining single.

It will be observed that in the age classes from 15 to 34 there have been significant increases in the percentages married for both males and females. This, of course, is reflected in a cor-

TABLE XVIII. MARITAL CONDITION OF THE POPULATION OF IOWA 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER BY SEX AND AGE CLASSES FOR 1920,[1] 1910[2] AND 1900[3]

	Percent											
	Single			Married			Widowed			Divorced		
	1920	1910	1900	1920	1910	1900	1920	1910	1900	1920	1910	1900
Males												
All classes	35.1	38.6	40.3	59.2	55.9	55.1	4.7	4.4	4.3	.8	.6	.4
15-19	98.4	98.5	99.5	1.3	.6	.4	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
20-24	74.2	79.0	82.5	25.0	20.0	17.2	.3	.2	.2	.2	.1	.1
25-34	32.1	36.6	38.4	65.9	61.6	60.1	1.2	1.0	1.1	.7	.5	.3
35-44	16.7	17.0	15.5	79.6	79.4	81.1	2.4	2.6	2.8	1.1	.9	.5
45-54	12.9		8.7	80.8		82.2	4.8		5.4	1.3		.7
		9.6			82.2			6.9			1.0	
55-64	9.8		5.2	79.2		83.7	9.6		10.3	1.2		.8
64-Over	5.9	4.4	3.6	67.2	69.1	70.2	25.6	25.4	25.5	.9	.9	.6
Females												
All classes	27.4	29.8	30.8	61.6	60.0	60.0	9.9	9.1	8.6	.9	.7	.6
15-19	90.5	91.4	91.9	9.2	7.8	8.0	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	(4)
20-24	49.9	53.6	54.7	48.5	45.2	44.4	.7	.4	.5	.7	.4	.3
25-34	19.8	21.8	21.4	77.0	75.5	76.0	2.0	1.6	1.9	1.0	.8	.6
35-44	11.5	10.8	8.8	82.5	83.4	85.3	4.6	4.7	5.0	1.3	1.1	.8
45-54	9.1		5.0	79.0		82.2	10.5		11.9	1.3		.9
		6.2			77.0			15.7			1.0	
55-64	6.9		3.3	68.8		71.0	23.1		24.9	1.1		.8
65-Over	4.3	3.3	2.6	39.4	42.1	44.3	55.5	53.9	52.6	.5	.5	.4

[1] 1920 Census Pop. Vol. II p. 423.
[2] 1910 Census Pop. Vol. I p. 554.
[3] 1900 Census Pop. Vol. II p. 272.
(4) Less than one-tenth of one percent.

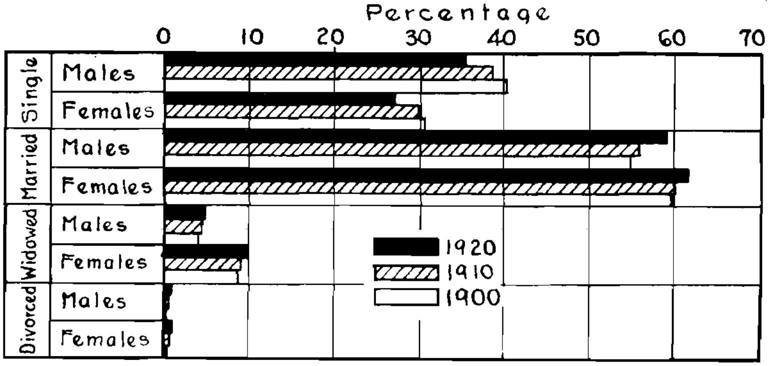


Fig. 33. Percentages of population 15 years of age or over single, married, widowed or divorced, by sex, 1920, 1910 and 1900.

responding decrease in the percentage single in these age classes.

It is true that divorce is increasing somewhat but scarcely to an alarming extent. In 1900 four-tenths of one percent of all males 15 years of age or over in Iowa were reported as divorced, while in 1920 the number had increased to eight-tenths of one percent. Among females the increase was from six-tenths of one percent to nine-tenths of one percent. Tho much is said and written about divorce it does not involve any large percentage of the population of Iowa. One should remember, however, that these figures do not report the number of persons ever having secured a divorce. They merely report the number of divorcees who have not married again. The number and rate of marriage and divorce will be discussed later.

Table XIX compares rural and urban communities as to marital condition of the population 15 years of age and over by sex and age classes for 1920 and 1910. It shows that in both urban and rural communities and for both sexes a larger percentage of the people in the younger age classes were reported as married in 1920 than in 1910, with a corresponding decrease in the percentage single. It will be seen also that for the age class 45 years old and over for both males and females in both urban and rural communities the percentage single increased from 1910 to 1920. This of course was reflected in a decrease in the percentage married in those classes.

Figure 34 constructed from the 1920 data in table XIX, was drawn to compare rural and urban communities as to marital condition by sex, disregarding age classes. It will be seen that rural communities have a considerably higher percentage of single men than do urban communities and a smaller percent-

TABLE XIX. MARITAL CONDITION OF IOWA POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER FOR URBAN AND RURAL COMMUNITIES BY SEX, AGE AND PRINCIPAL POPULATION CLASSES FOR 1920 AND 1910.

	Male								Female							
	Percent								Percent							
	Single		Married		Widowed		Divorced		Single		Married		Widowed		Divorced	
	1920	1910	1920	1910	1920	1910	1920	1910	1920	1910	1920	1910	1920	1910	1920	1910
Urban	33.4	38.0	60.1	55.7	5.0	4.7	1.2	.9	28.6	32.2	58.1	55.5	11.7	10.8	1.5	1.1
15-24	84.2	87.7	15.2	11.3	.2	.1	.2	.1	69.7	74.7	28.9	24.0	.5	.3	.7	.4
25-34	33.3	30.0	64.1	66.6	1.3	2.0	1.2	1.0	24.6	22.2	70.9	71.9	2.6	4.3	1.8	1.6
35-44	17.1		78.1		2.8		1.8		14.7		76.7		6.3		2.2	
45-over	9.5	8.1	76.9	78.4	11.8	12.2	1.6	1.3	8.5	6.8	60.6	62.1	29.4	29.8	1.4	1.2
Age unknown	32.3	23.5	34.0	22.3	5.2	3.5	1.7	.1	30.8	27.3	36.3	34.1	13.3	14.5	1.2	1.0
Native white Native parents	34.9	38.5	59.1	55.4	4.5	4.4	1.3	1.0	30.6	33.1	57.1	54.8	10.5	10.4	1.6	1.3
Foreign parents	33.5	45.4	61.1	50.7	4.1	2.9	1.1	.7	30.2	40.6	58.2	51.8	10.3	6.5	1.3	.8
Mixed parents	41.4		54.5		3.1		1.0		37.1		54.3		7.3		1.3	
Foreign born white	22.8	26.9	67.0	63.8	8.9	7.9	1.0	.6	11.1	13.5	64.9	64.9	22.9	20.7	.9	.8
Negro	32.9	37.9	58.0	51.2	6.6	7.8	2.2	2.3	17.0	22.9	65.1	58.2	14.8	15.9	2.9	2.8
Rural	36.1	38.8	58.6	55.9	4.5	4.3	.5	.5	26.6	28.6	64.0	62.4	8.8	8.2	.5	.5
15-24	87.7	89.5	11.9	9.5	.1	.1	.1	.1	70.6	72.4	28.7	26.7	.3	.2	.2	.1
25-34	31.3	26.6	67.0	71.1	1.0	1.5	.4	.5	16.5	14.1	81.3	82.9	1.6	2.3	.5	.7
35-44	16.5		80.5		2.2		.7		9.4		86.5		3.4		.7	
45-over	10.7	8.4	76.9	79.1	11.3	11.5	.9	.9	6.2	4.7	69.0	70.5	23.9	24.0	.8	.7
Age unknown	32.4	33.1	32.1	23.8	6.2	6.7	1.3	1.2	25.9	25.7	39.4	36.8	9.3	14.5	.8	1.3
Native white Native parents	38.2	39.2	56.8	55.6	4.1	4.2	.6	.6	29.1	29.8	62.4	61.4	7.7	7.9	.6	.6
Foreign parents	35.6	48.0	60.6	49.1	3.2	2.1	.4	.3	25.4	36.9	67.8	58.6	6.2	3.9	.4	.4
Mixed parents	46.9		50.2		2.4		.4		36.1		58.9		4.5		.5	
Foreign born white	19.9	23.7	69.6	67.3	9.8	8.1	.5	.5	7.1	7.9	70.8	73.4	21.6	18.2	.4	.4
Negro	36.7	37.5	51.5	52.8	9.0	6.8	1.3	2.3	21.4	21.7	66.3	66.9	10.5	8.5	1.0	2.2

1920 Census Pop. Vol. II p. 593
1910 Census Pop. Vol. I p. 604

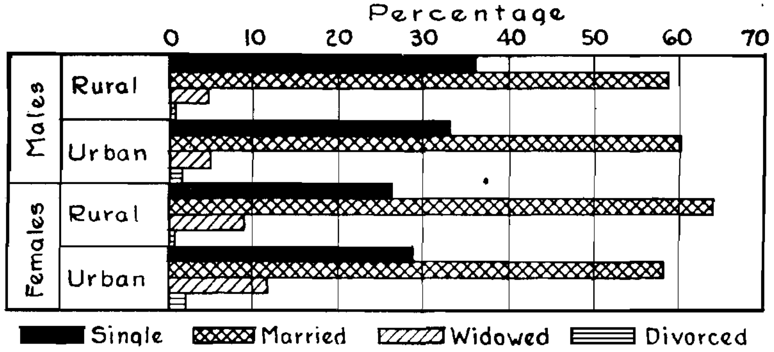


Fig. 34. Percentages of males and females 15 years of age or over, single, married, widowed or divorced by rural and urban communitis, 1920.

age of single women than do urban communities. This indicates, of course, that rural women 15 years of age or over either more frequently marry or move to urban communities where they marry or where their numbers help to increase the percentage of single women.

Figure 34 shows that divorce is more prevalent in urban than in rural communities. It discloses that the percentage of widowed females is higher than widowed males in both rural and urban communities. This is probably because widowed men are more likely to marry than are widowed females. Note also that widows are more prevalent in urban than rural communities, probably due to greater economic and social opportunities in urban than rural communities.

Some significant differences and changes are observed between the different race and nativity classes. Of the foreign born males in both urban and rural communities, the percentage married increased from 1910 to 1920. This was not true of foreign born females.

It will be noticed that a higher percentage of foreign born women is married than of native born women. The explanation is found largely in the fact that it is the adults who come from foreign countries rather than young people. In western civilization only a relatively small percentage of those under 21 years of age marry, and this tends to make the percentage of unmarried relatively large. The high percentage of widows among the foreign born is explained largely in the same way. It will be observed in fig. 35 that there are but relatively few single women among the foreign born element. Evidently few single women come from other lands, or if they do they soon marry.

Reference was just made to the fact that when reporting the

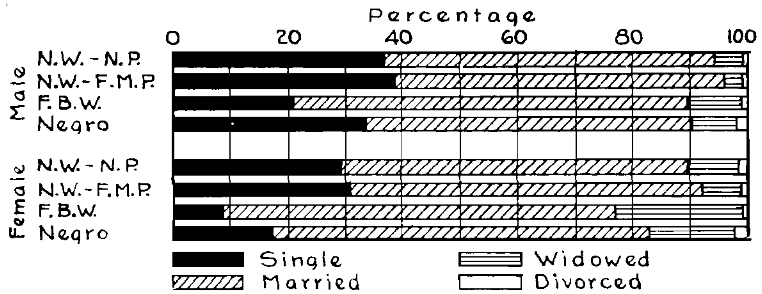


Fig. 35. Pecentages of Iowa population 15 years of age or over single, married, widowed or divorced, by sex, race and principal population classes, 1920.

number of divorced persons, the figures do not refer to the number of divorces granted but merely to those divorcees who have not remarried. Table XX not only gives the number and rate of divorce in Iowa, but also the number and rate of marriages for the state from 1916 to 1928 as reported by the Bureau of the Census. It will be seen that in 1916 22,843 marriages were solemnized. The number increased to 24,855 in 1924 and then declined to 20,529 in 1928. The number of divorces granted increased from 3,309 in 1916 to 3,782 in 1924 and then to 4,076 in 1928. In 1916 there was 1 divorce to 6.9 marriages, while in 1928 the number had increased to 1 in 5.03.

It should be understood that the number of divorces reported any given year does not necessarily reflect the number of failures of marriages performed in that year. For the total population of the United States the highest percentage of divorce occurs after a marriage duration of from 2 to 3 years, hence where divorce is increasing a divorce rate of 1 to 5.03 marriages—the rate for Iowa in 1928—does not truly represent the percentage of marriages ultimately failing.

TABLE XX. NUMBER OF MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES, AND MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE RATES FOR IOWA, 1916 TO 1928.

Year	Number of marriages	Marriages per 1,000 of			Divorces granted	Divorces per 1,000 of the population	
		Total population	Population 15 yrs. and over				
			Total	Unmarried[1]		Total	Married
1928	20,529	8.46	12.06	30.59	4,076	1.68	3.96
1927	21,048	8.68	—	—	4,226	1.74	—
1926	20,966	8.65	—	—	4,080	1.68	—
1925	21,924	9.06	—	—	4,112	1.70	—
1924	24,855	10.28	—	—	3,782	1.56	—
1923	23,516	9.5	13.5	34.9	4,326	1.75	4.07
1922	22,745	9.3	13.2	33.9	3,862	1.58	3.68
1916	22,843	9.8	14.0	34.8	3,309	1.41	3.41

[1]Single, widowed and divorced.

Adopted from "Marriage and Divorce" Bureau of the Census reports for 1928, 1923 and 1922.

By referring to table XIX one can see that for all age and nativity classes and for both sexes except Negro males, in both urban and rural communities, divorce either increased or at least did not decrease. The figures indicate that relatively fewer divorcees had remarried in 1920 than in 1910.

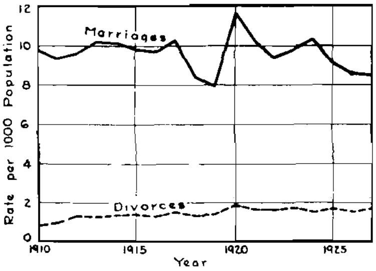


Fig. 36. Marriage and divorce rates for 1,000 population for Iowa, 1910 to 1927.

Figure 36 taken from the Twenty-Third Biennial report of the Iowa State Department of Health shows the marriage and divorce rates per 1,000 population for Iowa from 1910 to 1927. Data for the entire period from which this graph was drawn are not available to the authors and, therefore, cannot be given.

SIZE OF FAMILY AND DWELLING FACILITIES

That the size of the American family is smaller than 50 years ago is generally known, but just how rapidly and to what extent it is decreasing in size is not so well known. In table XXI are given the size of family and number of persons to a dwelling for United States and Iowa. The figures are for the population as a whole and for rural and urban communities as shown by various census enumerations. It will be

TABLE XXI. PERSONS PER FAMILY AND TO A DWELLING IN U. S. AND IOWA FOR TOTAL POPULATION, AND RURAL AND URBAN COMMUNITIES FOR GIVEN CENSUS ENUMERATIONS.*

	Number of persons			
	Per family		To a dwelling	
	U. S.	Iowa	U. S.	Iowa
Total				
1920	4.3	4.1	5.1	4.3
1910	4.5	4.3	5.2	4.5
1900	4.7	4.6	5.3	4.8
1895	—	4.74	—	4.73
1890	4.9	—	5.5	—
1880	5.0	—	5.6	—
1870	5.1	—	—	—
1860	5.3	—	—	—
1850	5.6	—	5.9	—
Rural				
1920	4.5	4.2	4.6	4.3
1910	4.6	4.4	4.7	4.5
Urban				
1920	4.2	3.9	5.7	4.3
1910	4.5	4.2	5.9	4.4

Compiled from 1920 Population Vol. II pps. 1267 and 1274 and 1895 Iowa Census p. 249.

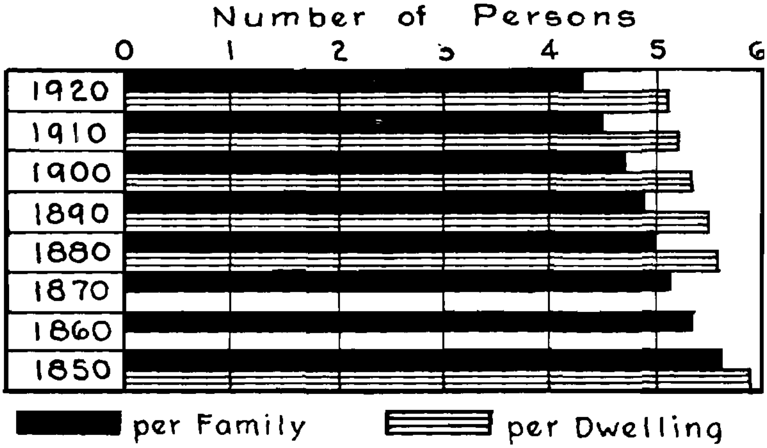


Fig. 37. Number of persons per family and to a dwelling in the United States, 1850 to 1920.

seen that since 1850 the American family has decreased in size from 5.6 to 4.3 persons. Figures for Iowa are not available for this entire period, but from 1895 to 1920 the Iowa family decreased in size from 4.74 to 4.1 persons.

Housing facilities have gradually improved if fewer persons to a dwelling indicate improvement. Some significant differences are found in a comparison of rural and urban communities. Thruout the country the rural family is larger than the urban family, and rural communities have fewer persons to a dwelling than do urban. Figure 37 shows the size of family and the average number of persons residing in each dwelling for the United States by census enumerations since 1850. Fig-

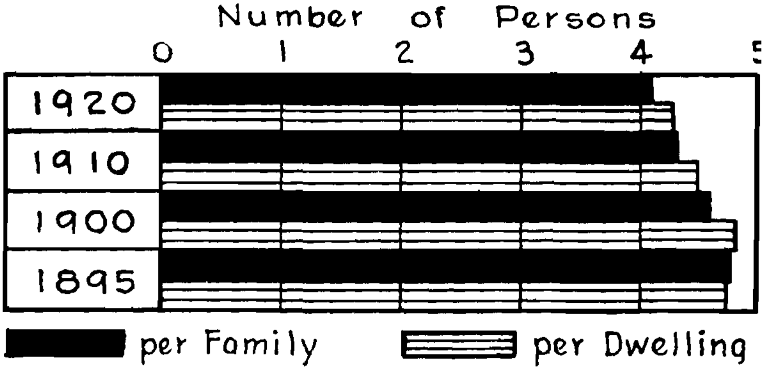


Fig. 38. Number of persons per family and to a dwelling in Iowa 1920, 1910, 190 and 1895.

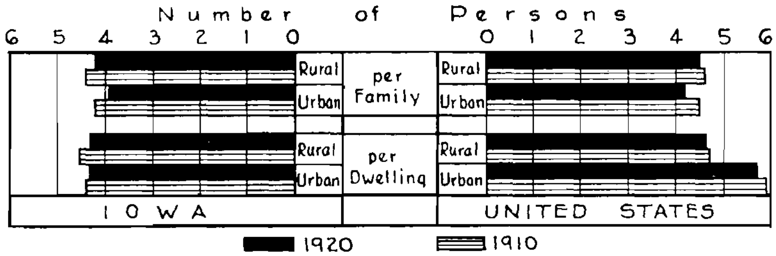


Fig. 39. Number of persons per family and to a dwelling in Iowa and the United States by rural and urban communities 1920 and 1910.

ure 38 shows similar data for Iowa since 1895, and fig. 39 shows the size of family and the number of persons to a dwelling for Iowa and the United States by rural and urban communities for 1920 and 1910. It should be explained that the relatively large number of persons to a dwelling for the United States is due largely to the increasing use of apartment houses, children's homes, boarding houses etc., each of which is classed as one dwelling by census enumerators. Since Iowa is still quite largely rural and has relatively few city tenement houses, hotels and apartment houses, the number of persons to a dwelling is considerably lower than for the United States as a whole.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES

Any extended discussion of the composition and changes in the population of any people would be incomplete without some mention of the trends in birth rate and death rate. Space,

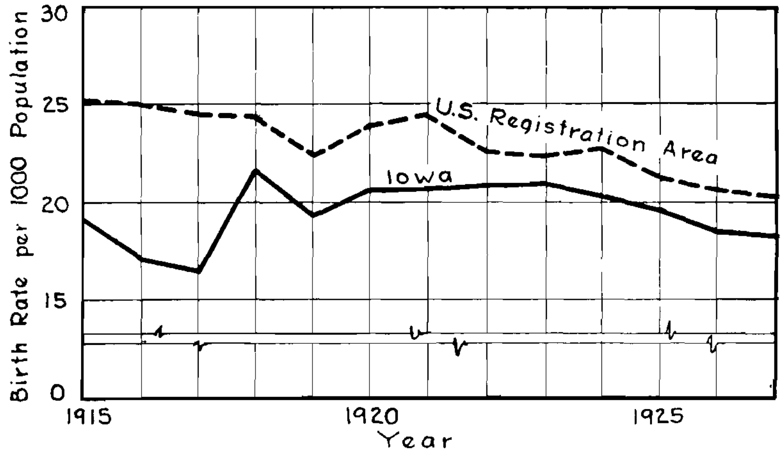


Fig. 40. Birth rate per 1,000 population in Iowa and the U. S. Registration Area from 1910 to 1927.

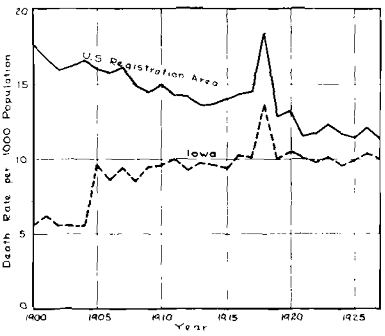


Fig. 41. Comparative death rates for the U. S. Registration Area and Iowa from 1900 to 1927.

however, permits only the briefest treatment of this topic. Reliable figures for dates prior to 1924 are not available since Iowa was not included in the Death Registration Area of the United States until 1923 and the Birth Registration Area until 1924. Omitting the data from which these graphs were drawn, we are reproducing intact the graphs on birth and death rates in Iowa ad the United States Registration Area however, permits only the briefest treatment of this topic. Reliable figures for dates prior to 1924 are not available since Iowa was not included in the Death Registration Area of the United States until 1923 and the Birth Registration Area until 1924. Omitting the data from which these graphs were drawn, we are reproducing intact the graphs on birth and death rates in Iowa and the United States Registration Area as they appear in the Twenty-Third Biennial Report of the Iowa State Department of Health. Fig. 40 shows the birth rate per 1,000 population in Iowa and the United States Registration Area from 1910 to 1927, while fig. 41 shows the com-

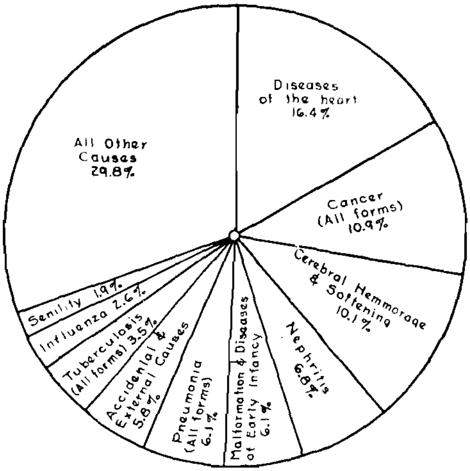


Fig. 42. Distribution of deaths in Iowa by principal causes for 1927.

parative death rates for the United States Registration Area and Iowa from 1900 to 1927. Fig. 42 shows the distribution of deaths in Iowa by principal causes for 1927. This figure is reproduced from the Twenty-Third Biennial Report of the Iowa State Department of Health.

EDUCATION

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Iowa ranks high in education as table XXII shows. It gives by age classes the percentage of the population in the United States and Iowa attending school in 1920 and 1910. Note that

TABLE XXII. PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION BY AGE CLASSES, FOR UNITED STATES AND IOWA ATTENDING SCHOOL IN 1920 AND 1910.

	United States		Iowa	
	1920	1910	1920	1910
Age classes				
7-13	90.6	86.1	95.0	93.2
14-15	79.9	75.0	85.8	81.8
16-17	42.9	43.1	51.4	50.5
18-20	14.8	15.2	19.4	17.9

Pop. Vol. II. Page 1049.

in all the age classes Iowa's school attendance increased from 1910 to 1920, whereas for the United States this was true only of the younger classes. It will also be observed that for all classes Iowa ranks above the United States as a whole. Figures for the 1930 census are not available at this time, but it is likely they will show continued increase in school attendance, particularly among the older age classes. Table XXIII compares the United States and Iowa as to school attendance, by rural and urban communities. The table shows that for both age classes and for both rural and urban communities Iowa ranks higher than the United States.

TABLE XXIII. NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF THE RURAL AND URBAN POPULATION 7-20, AND 7-13 YEARS OF AGE ATTENDING SCHOOL IN THE UNITED STATES AND IOWA, 1920 AND 1910.

	Rural				Urban			
	1920		1910		1920		1910	
Ages	Number	Per-cent	Number	Per-cent	Number	Per-cent	Number	Per-cent
U. S.								
7-20	10,623,811	68.3	9,698,954	64.3	8,828,040	67.9	6,541,897	61.6
7-13	7,499,874	87.6	6,518,284	82.4	6,369,136	94.4	4,627,889	91.8
Iowa								
7-20	307,087	72.6	322,716	70.5	146,091	71.9	111,401	65.3
7-13	213,494	94.8	217,499	93.0	96,250	95.5	74,144	93.8

1920 Census Pop. Vol. II. p. 1137

TABLE XXIV. PERCENTAGE OF IOWA POPULATION 7-20, AND 7-13 YEARS OF AGE BY PRINCIPAL POPULATION CLASSES, ATTENDING SCHOOL 1920 AND 1910.

Nativities and race	Age classes			
	7 to 20		7 to 13	
	1920	1910	1920	1910
All classes	72.4	69.1	95.0	93.2
Native white				
Native parents	75.0	72.5	95.2	93.2
Foreign or mixed parents	66.1	64.8	94.7	93.7
Foreign born	49.0	35.7	88.0	86.0
Negro	67.5	63.4	95.0	92.4

1920 Census Pop. Vol. II. Page 1049, 51-52.

Altho Iowa has but relatively few foreign born and negroes in her population, it was thought worth while to include a brief reference to school attendance among the different nativity classes. Table XXIV gives by nativities the percentages of Iowa population 7-20 and 7-13 years of age who attended school in 1920 and 1910. It will be seen that for all nativities and for negroes, school attendance for 1920 had increased appreciably over that of 1910. It is conspicuous that among the foreign born, school attendance was very low altho they made more improvement between 1910 and 1920 than any other group. The explanation of the low school attendance among the foreign born is probably that less emphasis is placed upon education abroad, and an economic handicap prevents many foreign born from attending school.

COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

The increased interest in education which has led to larger enrollment in the grades has carried on into high school and college as table XXV shows. The figures given include those

TABLE XXV. NUMBER OF PERSONS IN IOWA OF SCHOOL AGE AND OVER HAVING ATTAINED COLLEGE OR HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION AS INDICATED, 1925[1] 1915[2].

Years completed	Number of persons			
	College or university		High school	
	1925	1915	1925	1915
Four	41,667	32,435	191,881	105,690
Three	19,269	16,271	68,311	52,781
Two	46,270	37,059	112,326	74,077
One	51,382	54,244	95,682	56,561
Total	158,588	140,009	468,200	289,109

[1]Iowa Census 1925. p. xxxix.
[2]Iowa Census 1915. p. xxxii.

long out of school as well as those who were in school at the time of the census enumeration. Note that whereas in 1915 105,690 people in Iowa had received four years of high school training, in 1925 the number had increased to 191,881. In 1915 there were 32,435 college or university graduates in Iowa, while in 1925 there were 41,667. Assuming that all college graduates are at least 18 years of age, Iowa had in 1925 an average of 2.6 persons who had four years of college or university education for each 100 persons 18 years of age or over. More than 10 percent of the population 18 years of age or over have had one year or more of college education.

Iowa holds an enviable record in regard to literacy as table XXVI shows. While 6 percent of the population of the United States could neither read nor write in 1920, only 1.1 percent were illiterate in Iowa. No other state in the Union ranked as high in literacy. In 1925, according to the state census, slightly less than one-half of one percent (0.46) of Iowa's population was unable to read and write.

It is gratifying to note the rapid decrease in illiteracy among both the foreign born and negroes, the latter having decreased from 18.5 percent in 1900 to 8.1 percent in 1920.

TABLE XXVI. PERCENTAGE OF ILLITERACY IN THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES AND IOWA 10 YEARS OF AGE AHD OVER BY SEX AND PRINCIPAL POPULATION CLASSES FOR 1920, 1910, AND 1900.

	Percent Illiteracy					
	1920		1910		1900	
	U. S.	Iowa	U. S.	Iowa	U. S.	Iowa
All classes						
Both sexes	6.0	1.1	7.7	1.7	10.7	2.3
Male	6.0	1.2	7.6	1.7	10.1	2.1
Female	5.9	1.0	7.8	1.7	11.2	2.6
Native white of native parents	2.5	0.5	3.7	0.9	5.7	1.4
Foreign or mixed parents	0.8	0.4	1.1	0.6	1.6	0.8
Foreign born	13.1	4.9	12.7	6.3	12.6	7.1
Negro	22.9	8.1	30.4	10.3	44.5	18.5

1920 Census Pop. Vol. II. page 1156.

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